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THE TIMES

No. 65,230 SATURDAY APRIL 1 1995

9309/8

Battle with Blair for Middle England

Major bids to claw back Tory ground

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

JOHN MAJOR will challenge Tony Blair today for the allegiance of Middle England with promises designed to re-establish the Tories as the party of the family, common decency and tax cuts.

In what will be seen as an attempted relaunch of the Conservative Party after its unprecedented collapse in the polls, the Prime Minister intends to confront Labour's resurgence by outlining a new agenda to take the Tories into the next election.

He will tell the Conservative Central Council in Birmingham that the Government has achieved its 1979 objectives and that the time has come to map out a new programme — what he calls "the next phase of Conservatism".

He is expected to claim that Tory policies, rather than Mr Blair's, are in tune with the needs of the middle classes, and signal new policies on education, public services and the welfare state.

The initiative is understood to reflect the advice of senior strategists who say the party is in such dire trouble that only a total overhaul of its programme can save it from defeat. One has said: "If the Tory Party was a soap powder, we would have to take it off the market."

Tony Blair will capitalise on that position today when he tells his party workers that the Conservatives are "on the run and panicking", and being forced to fight on Labour's agenda. "Middle-income Britain has been lied to, cheated and betrayed and will judge the Tories not by what they say but by what they do," he will tell the Labour women's conference in Derby.

Nuclear sell-off could raise £2bn

The Government could raise up to £2 billion for tax cuts by a sale of atomic power stations Bob Hawley, chief executive of Nuclear Electric, said yesterday. But taxpayers might then have to provide a larger sum to help to meet the £9 billion cost of decommissioning older Magnox plants. Nuclear Electric wants these stations left in the public sector. Page 21

Ross Tieman, page 23

But Mr Major insisted yesterday that the Government had reached a turning point and would soon reap the benefits of unpopular policies.

He also confirmed that the Government was looking at changes to the benefit system to boost the traditional two-parent family. During interviews in the West Midlands, he also hinted at a fresh crackdown on juvenile crime.

Mr Major will say today: "In 1979, we promised to get Britain off its knees and on its feet: to end hyper-inflation, curb old-style union power, turn round loss-making nationalised industry, and begin to spread choice and ownership to everyone. We've done that. Now we must turn to the future."

On the first day of the council yesterday, a series of Cabinet ministers delivered rallying calls, emphasising Mr Major's message that the Tories would win the battle for Middle England.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, spoke of the need to reinforce discipline and respect in the home while ensuring that criminals paid a higher price for their crimes.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, gave his strongest hint yet that he intends to cut taxes in November, while Jeremy Hanley and Michael Heseltine led an assault on Mr Blair, saying that he was a "Trojan horse" for old-style union-dominated socialism.

But Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, derided them last night, saying: "The Tory lie machine cannot obscure the gap between the promises of the Tories to middle-income Britain and the reality people confront of falling living standards, higher taxes and more crime."

Mr Major's new approach will be seen by many Tories as an attempt to revive his back-to-basics crusade, which he redefined on BBC television yesterday using words that have peppered recent speeches by Mr Blair. He had been talking about the need for service, for duty and for people to contribute to the community. He had not been talking about personal morality, and people did not believe that politicians should preach.

"People care about duty, responsibility, and community," he said. "They have been fundamental to conservatism as far back as you can go. The Conservative Party stands for duty and that means we have to do what we believe is right."

Mr Major confirmed that the Government was looking at benefit changes to discourage lone parents. "We are looking to see whether we can fashion ways of using the benefits system to encourage the generally accepted view that parenthood is really a matter for a table marriage, and not beyond that," he said.

Council reports, pages 8-9
Tory grassroots, page 16
Leading article, page 17

ANDRÉ CAMARA

Cantona: will train young soccer hopefuls after jail sentence was quashed

Spared Cantona puzzles media with sardines

BY BILL FROST AND JOHN GOODBODY

ERIC CANTONA, football's *enfant terrible*, yesterday escaped a prison sentence for launching a flying kick at a Crystal Palace fan and then passed an enigmatic verdict on his critics.

Moments after a judge quashed the jail term and substituted a 120-hour community service order, the Manchester United and French international striker was at his most delphic when he appeared before a press conference and said: "When seagulls follow a trawler, it is because they think sardines will be thrown into the sea."

Suspecting they had been verbally attacked in some obscure way, reporters sought clarification from Maurice Watkins, a Manchester United director. He was just as baffled: "You can see from that the extreme pressure Eric has been under."

Earlier Cantona, in outsize grey wool jacket, allowed himself a brief smile and a shrug when an interpreter at Croydon Crown Court explained that the judge had quashed the two week prison sentence imposed after he admitted a kick at a Crystal Palace supporter.

Cantona, who is expected to begin his community service with aspiring young footballers next week, may well now be leaving United for a foreign club. His lawyer said his "love affair with England has been affected by all this".

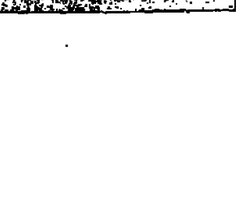
The Frenchman's fans were still loyal yesterday. Sebastian Pennells, 13, from Kent, risked the anger of court officials when he approached his hero in the dock with a good luck card.

Transfer likely, page 3

INSIDE



Win a 12-day tour of Peru for two
page 15



£3 off a WH Smith CD
Weekend, page 6



London marathon preview
page 34

PLUS
Simon Jenkins enters cyberspace
page 16

Who wins and who loses with the Halifax
Weekend Money
page 27

59 die in bomb threat crash

All 59 people on a Romanian Airbus to Brussels were killed yesterday when their aircraft crashed shortly after taking off from Bucharest. There was an explosion before the airliner fell into a field. The same flight, operated by Tarom, had been the target of a bomb threat two weeks ago. Page 11

Investors vote for takeover cash

Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society members voted in favour of the £1.8 billion Lloyds Bank takeover, bringing cash windfalls for about 800,000 investors. Each eligible account will be paid £500 plus an expected 13 per cent of the balance. Page 21

Killer sues

Nicholas Ingram, a British-born murderer due to be executed in Georgia on Thursday, is suing officials claiming that electrocution amounts to "cruel and unusual punishment". Page 13

Condemned, Weekend page 1

Tests spark return to traditional teaching

BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL tests for 11-year-olds are triggering a revival of traditional teaching methods in state primary schools, a study disclosed yesterday.

Multiplication tables, spelling bees, public gold stars rewarding children's progress and dividing classes by ability for some subjects ... all are making rapid returns as teachers revert to more formal techniques to prepare classes for Government tests next month.

The research by London University provides the first evidence that the crusade waged by successive education secretaries against progressive teaching methods in primary schools is beginning to take effect. It shows that compulsory tests in English, mathematics and science are proving a catalyst for classroom change.

Professor Margaret Brown, director of the National Assessment in Primary Schools project, said that the study showed a new culture was developing, with teachers moving away from the child-centred approaches to learning that have held sway in many staffrooms since the 1960s. The pace of change — and the surprising lack of opposition to it — suggested that some teachers might previously have been "closet traditionalists", she said.

Professor Brown added that some schools were dividing children by ability for different subjects and coaching them for the tests that more than 600,000 pupils will sit for the first time during the week of May 15. She said: "The atmosphere in some was very 11-plussy. They had children lined up in serried ranks in the hall, pencils up, like a GCSE examination at secondary school."

The shift was most noticeable in science, where many teachers had relied on a "discovery" approach with

Continued on page 2, col 1

The best is yet to come, says Clarke signalling tax cuts

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

KENNETH CLARKE yesterday gave his clearest signal that he intends to cut taxes in his November Budget.

In remarks that contrasted sharply with his recent cautious predictions on the return of the "feel-good" factor, the Chancellor declared: "With the economy growing healthier, the day when I will be able to cut taxes is getting nearer."

In a speech to the Conservative Central Council in Birmingham, he pleased the party by heralding what he called "the return to our tax-cutting agenda". The Chancellor has been under fire from the Tory right for failing to offer hope of imminent tax cuts.

But yesterday, in remarks that he admitted later had been "bullish", he left little doubt that he intended to use the next two Budgets to try to help John Major create an election-winning platform.

Mr Clarke described himself as "a paid up optimist with a lot to be optimistic about". The economy was in better shape than for a generation. "This is the evidence that we are on course to deliver growth that is for keeps. Growth that will not turn into boom followed by bust. And over the next 12 months, there will be even more reasons to be confident and cheerful, provided we stick to Conservative economics."

He said that the Tories were the only political party that believed that cutting tax was good for the economy and the people. "We believe passionately that the people should keep more of their own money to spend as they choose, not as the state chooses."

He derided Labour for failing to say anything about the economy, interest rates or income tax rates. "Tony Blair [Labour leader] and Gordon Brown [Shadow Chancellor] are rapidly becoming the Simon and Garfunkel of British politics. Their best-known tune is *The Sound of Silence*."

He added: "The worst is over. The best is yet to come."

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McColgan: favourite in London Marathon

Short odds and blue skies for a sporting weekend

BY ALAN HAMILTON

SPRING appears to have arrived at last, with weathermen predicting kind skies and warm temperatures for the weekend's three major sporting events in which only long-shot punters are likely to be disappointed.

The London Weather Centre forecast yesterday that much of southern England would be basking in unaccustomed warmth by this afternoon. But it will not escape notice that the supposed benchmarks of English tradition are increasingly being invaded by outsiders: only one oarsman in today's Oxford boat race crew is a native-born Briton.

Among today's 16 oarsmen ten are foreign-born, a record number of outsiders. As a contest between the cream of British manhood, the Boat Race appears to have had it.

The 141st Boat Race commences at 2.30pm. Bookmakers are convinced that Cambridge will win their third boat race in a row today; Ladbrokes were yesterday rating them as favourites at 9-2 on. The only long odds on offer — 250-1 — are for the unlikely outcome of a dead heat.

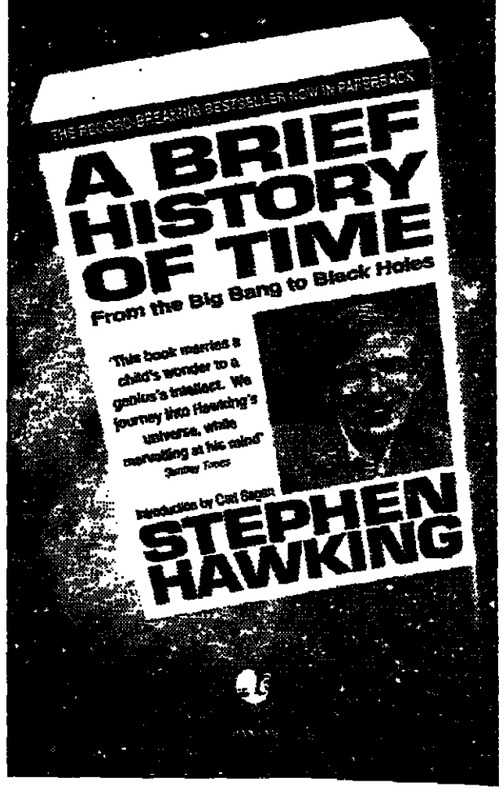
Favourites are also predicted to win the London Marathon on Sunday. Britain's best hopes are Eamonn Martin of England for the men and Liz McColgan of Scotland for the women, but the smart money is on Dionicio Ceron of Mexico, last year's winner, or Steve Moneghetti of Australia, with Katrin Dorre of Germany expected to retain the women's title she won last year.

The Coca-Cola Cup, once known as the League Cup Final, kicks off at Wembley on Sunday afternoon. Judged the third most important football encounter of the season after the FA Cup and the League Championship, this year's event is an unequal contest in the bookmakers' eyes. Liverpool are 3-1 on to win, with Bolton Wanderers trailing at 9-4 against.

Rotten odds, but there's always the Grand National next Saturday.

Photograph, page 20
Memory lane, page 34
David Miller, page 40

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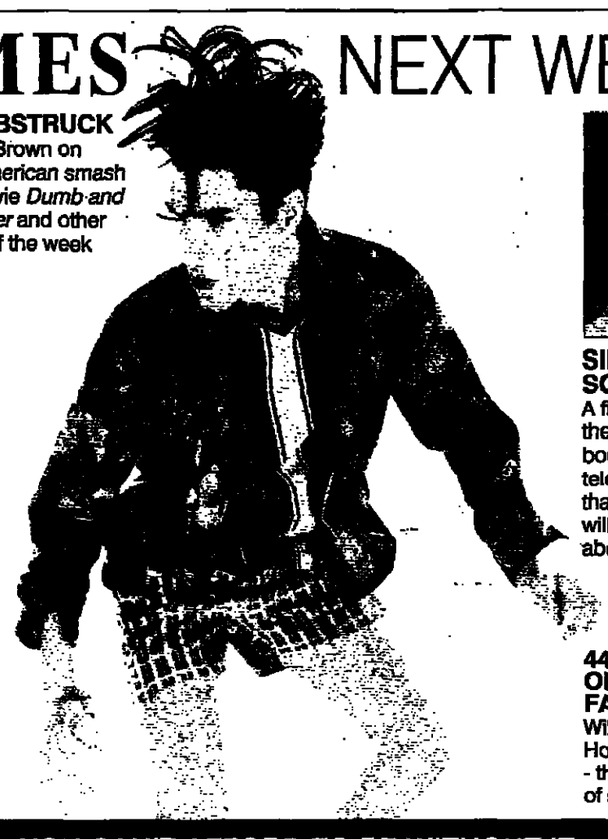
IN THE TIMES NEXT WEEK



DUMBSTRUCK
Geoff Brown on the American smash hit movie *Dumb and Dumber* and other films of the week



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BOLTON V LIVERPOOL
Rob Hughes at the Coca-Cola Cup Final

OXFORD BLUES?
David Miller at the 141st Boat Race



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THE BEST SPORT REPORTS AND WRITERS

Lord Chief Justice criticises shortfall in secure beds

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government came under fire from the Lord Chief Justice yesterday over the "alarming shortfall" of about 2,000 secure hospital beds for *mentally disturbed offenders.*

Lord Taylor of Gosforth said that it was vital for public protection that "appropriate secure accommodation is available to the courts at the time it is needed. In relation to the criminal justice system, this is a responsibility of the Government, which has been reasserted on many occasions by the Home Secretary."

Lord Taylor, addressing a seminar at Liverpool University, said: "Recent cases have unfortunately raised doubts as to whether this commitment is, however, being properly undertaken when the dangerous offender is suffering from a mental disorder.

"In my view it is no more acceptable for the Government to deny the courts the *ability to order the detention of* disturbed and dangerous offenders in secure hospitals than it would be to deny them the ability to send ruthless criminals to prison."

Lord Taylor called for urgent action to remedy "the alarming shortfall in provision which has been revealed". He said he understood that steps might be in hand to remedy the problem.

The Lord Chief Justice's comments come in the wake of a series of court cases where judges have ordered ministers to appear before them because of a shortage of beds for offenders. He said that in such cases the feelings of victims had to be borne in mind.

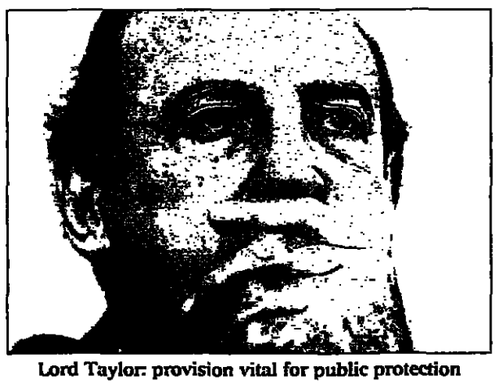
Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, has faced *six threats from judges to* summon her to court to account for the shortage of beds, but in each case except one, where she was represented in court, a bed was rapidly found.

Dr Trevor Turner, consultant psychiatrist at St Bartholomew's and Hackney Hospital in east London, welcomed the Lord Chief Justice's intervention. "We can't get secure beds for love nor money: a third of our general ward is full of patients awaiting trial," he said.

"I've been involved in two cases where judges have threatened to summon Mrs Bottomley to court, and pressure was immediately put on to open up another bed."

Marjorie Wallace, chief executive of Sane, the mental health charity, said: "It's a scandal that it should get to the stage of the Lord Chief Justice having to point out *what we and the Government* and everyone in the profession has known for many years, that there are simply not enough secure accommodation beds."

There were *712 medium* secure beds in Britain, despite a government report that recommended at least 1,700, Mrs Wallace said.



Lord Taylor: provision vital for public protection

Booking a roller coaster start to marriage

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

AFTER 150 years of tying the knot in the stark municipal surroundings of a register office, couples celebrating a civil wedding ceremony will from today be able to make their vows in such exotic locations as Brighton Pavilion or on top of a rollercoaster at Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

The *1994 Marriages Act* allows local authorities to consider a range of premises for the solemnisation of marriage. Thousands of institutions, from stately homes to working men's clubs, will apply for a licence.

Claire Johnson, 29, a computer operator, and Jamie Wilkinson, 26, a communications manager, hope to be one of the first couples to take advantage of the new law. In the autumn they plan to marry at Bolebrook Castle, Henry VIII's old hunting lodge in East Sussex.

"I didn't want a church wedding and Jamie didn't want to marry in a register office," said *Miss Johnson.* "This way we both feel we have the perfect medium."

For those less interested in an historical setting, the Pavillion service station at Farthing Corner on the M2 is also in the running. "We think it's a great place for a wedding," Peter Hope, the manager, said.

Councils win test case over compensation for tearaways

BY A STAFF REPORTER

LOCAL authorities won a High Court test case yesterday against being forced to pay compensation for crimes committed by teenagers in their care when they have done all that they can to exercise parental control.

Two judges ruled that Lancashire and Shropshire county councils were unlawfully ordered to pay *bills* running into thousands of pounds. Lord Justice Leggatt and Mr Justice Buxton said that courts and magistrates should not take the view, out of sympathy for victims of crime, that local authorities could afford to pay compensation and it was reasonable for them to do so, even if there was no criticism of the way they had carried out their responsibilities.

In a judgment that will be welcomed by councils all over the country having to meet the bill for the criminal escapades of tearaways, they quashed compensation orders made by youth courts in Burnley, Preston and Telford relating to four offenders responsible for a string of burglaries and *other crimes.*

The judges said in a joint judgment: "Where ... the local authority is found to have done everything that it reasonably and properly could to protect the public from the young offender, it would be wholly unreasonable and unjust that it should bear a financial penalty." It would be contrary to law to place the authority in a worse position than that of the natural parent. The judges added: "The parental responsibility that a local authority has for young persons in its care does not carry with it an obligation to answer for the young persons' defaults – so long as the authority has properly exercised such powers over the young person as are conferred on it by its parental responsibility."

A local authority might often be entrusted with the care of a young person who was already an offender or had criminal or anti-social tendencies – and the steps it could take to restrain such a person might well be limited, said the judges.

A girl of 15 who lived in a children's home in Wellington provided by Shropshire Council, damaged a car and wounded two police officers with a kitchen knife. After placing her under a two-year supervision order, Telford magistrates directed the council to pay the car owner £920 and £100 to each of the injured policemen, even though they had no criticism of the council.

The judges said a court must consider whether the local authority had fulfilled its duty "to such an extent as would make it unreasonable to order it to pay compensation". This had not occurred in the cases they had considered.

Labour court threat over Major on TV

Labour is threatening legal action against the BBC after its refusal to withdraw next Monday's *Panorama* interview with John Major, three days before the Scottish elections. The party is considering calling for a judicial review if the BBC fails to reschedule the 40-minute interview to a less politically sensitive time.

Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's press secretary, wrote to the corporation: "We are advised that the BBC is liable to judicial review for breach of the impartiality undertaking ... spelt out in its producer guidelines." The BBC immediately replied that it had not breached the guidelines and had no intention of withdrawing the programme. Conservative Council, pages 8, 9

Girl finds mother's body

An eight-year-old girl found the body of her strangled mother when she arrived home from school, police said yesterday. Detectives believe Nasreen Akhtar, 29, was murdered by a burglar who escaped with a video recorder from the house in Cobden Crescent, Oxford, on Thursday. Her daughter, Kamaran, called an ambulance, saying that she thought her mother had been electrocuted by TV equipment but a pathologist said she had been strangled.

Belfast talks in balance

Sinn Fein and Government officials yesterday held their first meeting in more than a month to try to break the deadlock that has prevented ministers from meeting the party. But after an hour of talks in Belfast with senior officials from the Northern Ireland Office Martin McGuinness said he did not know whether a ministerial meeting was any closer. He said he he would review the talks with Sinn Fein colleagues over the weekend.

Terror boy detained

A 6ft schoolboy with a knife and syringe who terrorised *London Underground passengers* was given seven years' detention by the Old Bailey. The boy, of Kensal Green, north London, was 14 when he began a nine-month series of robberies a year ago. He threatened to inject one youth with the Aids virus. Judge Goldstein did not accept that a deprived upbringing could be blamed. "My view is that downright evil prompted you to commit these offences."

Benefits curb attacked

Government plans to target single mothers as part of a drive to curb the £80 billion social security bill were attacked yesterday by Labour. Donald Dewar, Shadow Social Security Secretary, accused ministers of a return to "scapegoat politics with single parents again in the firing line". John Major confirmed yesterday that ministers were considering ways of changing the benefit system to discourage single parenthood.

Madness packs cinemas

Alan Bennett's much-praised film *The Madness Of King George* is breaking box office records in several West End cinemas in spite of failing to win a mantlepiece of Oscars. Many evening performances of the film, which stars Nigel Hawthorne as the disintegrating monarch, have sold out. Even Quentin Tarantino's cult hit *Pulp Fiction* and the Oscar-garlanded *Forrest Gump* have been easier to get into during the past week. Leading article, page 17

National tests spark revival of traditional teaching

Continued from page 1

children encouraged to find things out for themselves from experiments. Professor Brown said the tests required factual knowledge and classes practised for them by, for example, learning the names of the planets or parts of plants. She added: "In mathematics, I have never seen so much long division."

Ministers have long blamed the dominance of progressive teaching methods for the poor performance of primary schools. Government inspectors have identified the sector as the weak link in state education and last year reported that one third of lessons for children aged eight to 11 were unsatisfactory.

The research by King's College and the Institute of Education was based on 32 primary schools in four local authorities across England. About 26 of the schools carried out all or part of last summer's pilot tests.

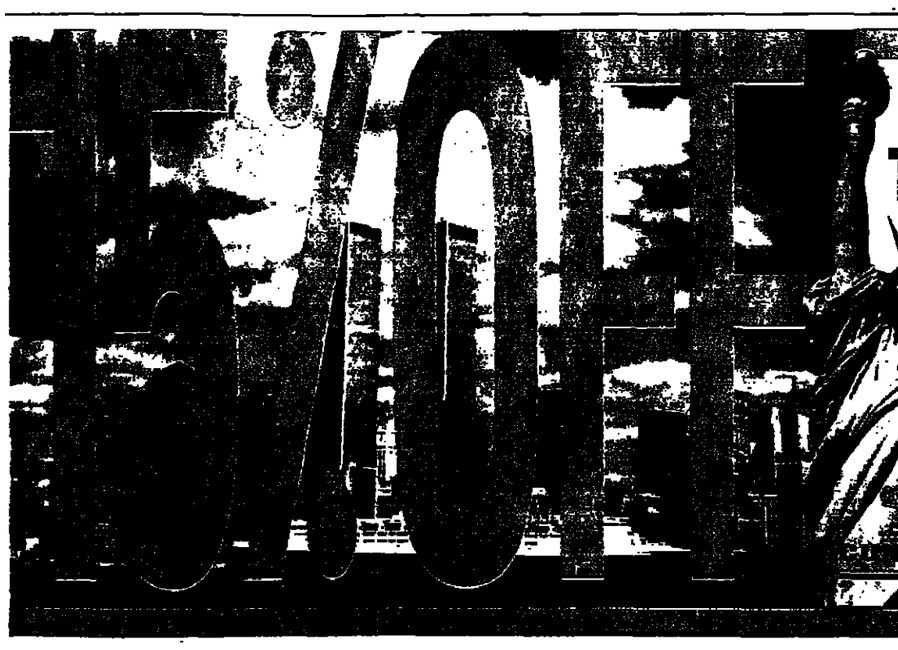
Professor Brown said that some schools, mainly in inner London, remained loyal to progressive methods, but even they were not immune from change. The combination of testing and the national curriculum was forcing a reassessment: "There is a cultural change. Teachers are thinking much harder about what and how they teach to ensure that children are covering the right stuff."

In one primary, mathematics sets included children of different ages as teachers abandoned the conventional year-group structure. While schools had not introduced specialist subject teaching for older pupils, some had reformed the timetable so the best subject teacher took the top set.

Professor Brown said that all the schools in the study were adopting a more formal approach, including spelling and tables tests or wall charts showing how many stars pupils had earned. She said the best teachers were harnessing the best aspects of progressive and traditional methodologies.

Chris Woodhead, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools, said the findings were encouraging and showed that primary schools were moving in the right direction by focusing pupils' attention on knowledge and understanding.

The Education Department said the popularity of testing was underlined by demands from schools for more than one million extra copies of a leaflet explaining the tests to parents. The three main classroom unions have abandoned the boycott over workload, which disrupted national testing for seven and 4-year-olds for the past two years. But the 11-year-old tests remain the most likely source of future conflict with head teachers determined to stop the results used as the basis for primary school league tables.



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£5m bid for Cantona fuels transfer talk

Manchester Utd may lose tarnished star despite ruling

BY BILL FROST AND JOHN GOODBODY

ERIC CANTONA, the Manchester United striker, seems likely to leave English football despite walking free from court yesterday after a judge quashed a two-week jail sentence for attacking a spectator. The player was ordered to perform 120 hours of community service working with aspiring young footballers.

Internazionale of Milan is reported to have made a £5 million offer for Cantona, 28, who has been suspended from professional football until October. Other bidders are waiting in the wings.

"Negotiations with Manchester United over Cantona's future have been suspended because of this case. They will start again ... but during these negotiations we will have to take everything into consideration," Jean-Jaques Bertrand, Cantona's lawyer, said.

Manchester United may be prepared to accept bids for Cantona, whose contract expires in 1996, despite his contribution to the club's double triumph in the Premier League and FA Cup last season. Maurice Watkins, United's solicitor and a club director, said: "I hope Eric will stay. There is no reason why he should not, and he can have a greater sense of belief in English justice now."

Two dozen of the player's fans allowed into court on a ticket-only basis clapped and cheered as the decision was announced. Judge Ian Davies said: "We express the hope that he will be able to be used in carrying out his public duty to the community by helping young people who aspire to be professional footballers ... and others who merely aspire to play the game and enjoy it."

Judge Davies told Cantona, who has been on £500 bail since the jailing, that Matthew Simmons, the 20-year-old Crystal Palace fan attacked by Cantona, had *indulged in conduct that* would "provoke the most stoic". Earlier the court had been told how the French international was subjected to a tirade of racist and obscene abuse when sent off after an *incident involving* a Palace player.

The judge went on: "Cantona reacted in a way which was out of character. Whatever the defendant's status he is entitled to be dealt with for the gravity of the offence and not sentenced to make an example of a public figure."

Cantona has been fined £11,500 by Manchester United, £10,000 by the Football *Association, and with player* bonuses he could face a total financial penalty of more than £40,000, the judge said. He had also been banned from playing for eight months "and that must have financial repercussions".

Mr Simmons has been charged with two counts of threatening behaviour. He has pleaded not guilty and will be tried at Croydon Magistrates' Court next month.

Yesterday the Manchester probation service was not clear what Cantona will be doing with his 120 hours. Bob Mathers, the deputy chief probation officer for Greater Machester, said the judge's remarks about work linked to young people and football would be taken into account but the sentence had to be seen as a punishment.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said Cantona would have to start the sentence *within ten working days of the* court decision. The footballer would have to report to a community service officer on Monday or Tuesday to be assessed.

Enigmatic verdict, page 1

Philosophical turn puzzles academics

BY ANDREW PIERCE

ERIC Cantona's philosophical riposte puzzled most observers yesterday but impressed few academics. Seemingly inspired by Chekov's *The Seagull*, he declared to startled journalists: "When seagulls follow a trawler, it is because they think sardines will be thrown into the sea."

But it was not only journalists who struggled to decipher the cryptic aphorism. Roger Scruton, Professor of philosophy at Boston University, was unimpressed. "I fear we will not be rushing *Mr Cantona's offering into* print. It's hardly Chekhov."

"Sport has always had a philopophical side to it. For the Greeks, sport was a major religious and initiative ceremony. To Homer it was the most important thing after war. But I don't think this is in the same league."

Dr David Starkey, Professor of History at the LSE, said: "I think he is telling you journalists that sardines are the equivalent of the carrion



Chekhov: *Seagull* may be to blame

and you are the eagles *waiting to devour the remains of his life."* Cantona is not the first French footballer with a philosophical turn. Albert Camus, the existentialist author, was a professional goalkeeper for Algiers. But Eric's oeuvre so far comprises only *La Philosophie de Cantona*, in which he writes: "Life is always too cruel/All we can do is say, let's try to/Pass the ball and let the sun shine/ Let's hope it shines on everyone.

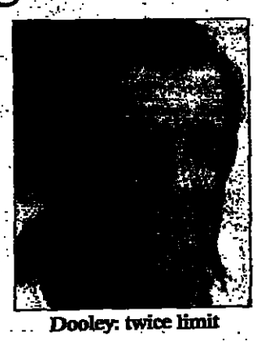
Dooley given driving ban

BY KATE ALDERSON

WADE DOOLEY, the former England rugby international and serving police officer, was banned from driving for 18 months yesterday after admitting drink-driving. He had knocked down a 14-year-old girl while twice the legal alcohol limit.

Dooley, 37, a community policeman in Blackpool, has had his case referred to his deputy chief constable, who will decide if he should face disciplinary proceedings. *Magistrates in* Blackburn, Lancashire, fined Dooley, of Weeton, near Kirkham, £300 and endorsed his licence after he admitted committing the offence on the evening of January 14 this year.

Rochelle Muskett, 14, ran out from behind a bus into the path of Dooley's Land Rover



Dooley: twice limit

Discovery in Kirkham. She spent three weeks in hospital with serious head and abdominal injuries. She has now returned to school.

A breath test revealed that Dooley, England's most capped second row forward, had 73 micrograms of alcohol *in his body. The legal limit is* 35. Allan Cobain, for the defence, told the 35-minute hearing that Dooley had played for the Preston Grasshoppers rugby team at Birmingham on the day of the *accident and drank three or* four pints of beer on an empty stomach. He said Dooley's police career hung in the balance.

The court heard that Dooley, who has been a police officer for 21 years and who retired from international rugby in 1991, had extended his "heartfelt sympathy" to Miss Muskett.

John Holt, for the prosecution, said: "It is clear that Mr Dooley had little chance of avoiding a collision." Statements by two witnesses, a policeman and a clergyman, said Dooley had no chance of avoiding the girl.

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DENZIL McNEELANCE

Joanna van der Lande of Bonhams with the Roman mosaic glass, made in the 1st century AD, and valued at up to £200,000

Couple bowled over by perfect Roman relic

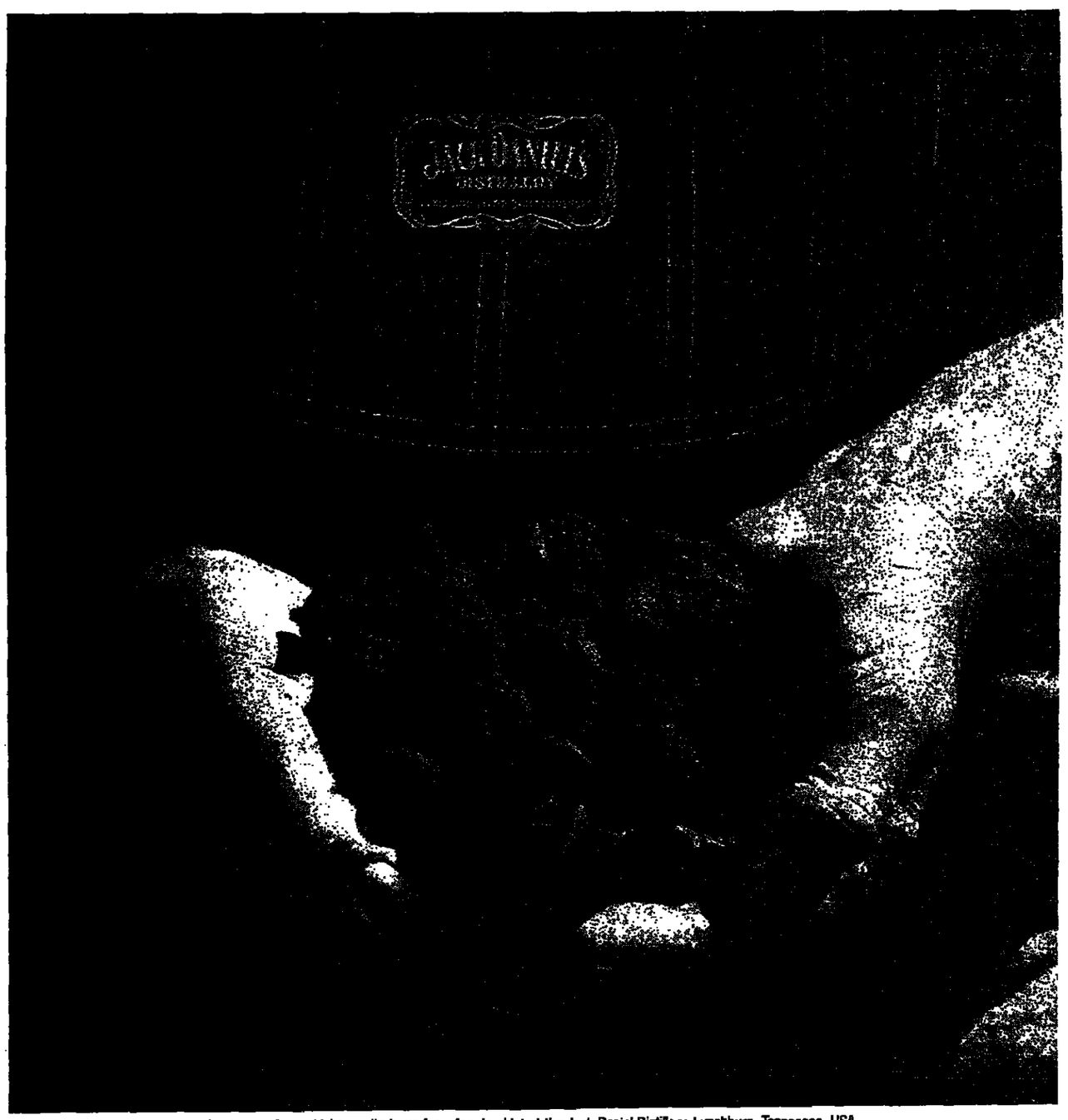
BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A GLASS bowl that was kept in an *attic for years has been identified as a* 2,000-year-old Roman artefact worth up to £200,000.

The exquisite blue and white mosaic piece is in such good condition that it looks almost as new as the day it left the 1st century craftsman who made it. The owners, *an anonymous mid*dle-aged Scottish couple, knew it was Roman and probably worth a few thousand pounds, which they said would have been "a nice little nest-egg for retirement". They kept it in layers of newspaper.

Joanna van der Lande, head of antiquities at Bonhams, who identified the piece, said: "I initially said it was worth £50,000 and they were delighted with that." The bowl was stolen from a Roman grave in a *British-owned mine at Tharsis, in the* Huelva Province of Spain, between 1866 and 1876. The robber, a local man, was caught by the mine guards and the bowl was confiscated and placed in the mining company's private museum. So many Roman antiquities were being unearthed during this period that mining companies were starting their own private museums. The owner's great grandfather, a mine official, was eventually given the piece when the *museum closed. The area was a rich* outpost of the Roman empire where silver and other minerals were mined well into the 5th century. Miss Van Der Lande said that such a fine object was probably originally owned by a wealthy mining official.

The bowl, 6.5in in diameter, is the only known undamaged design of its kind.A comparable piece is in the *Metropolitan Museum of New York*, but it is not perfect. Bonhams will be offering the bowl for sale on July 4. It is estimated to fetch between £100,000 and £200,000.



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

THE SUNDAY TIMES

When daddy came home

"There was jealousy on both sides. The children who had mum to themselves in the war now had to share her with a man who was almost a stranger.

A soldier who for years had dreamed of lying in his own bed with his wife would have to fight a furious little son or daughter who thought they had a right to be there too . . ."

Behind the smiles of VE-Day, the truth about families at the end of the war. The Sunday Times tomorrow

Attorney-General praises changes and rejects 'misguided criticism'

Serious Fraud Office fights off attacks to win bigger role

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE Serious Fraud Office was given a ringing endorsement by the Government yesterday when the Attorney-General announced it would not be abolished but would have an expanded role to tackle more cases.

The reprieve, announced in the House of Commons by Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, ended months of damaging speculation about whether the department would be absorbed into the Crown Prosecution Service. The decision came weeks before the department, which had attracted continual criticism over a series of high-profile cases, faces its biggest test to date with the trial of the Maxwell brothers on fraud charges in May.

Sir Nicholas told MPs that had he accepted the recommendations of a report by Rex Davie, a former Cabinet Office official, that the fraud office should be retained as a separate organisation and not merged with the Crown Prosecution Service. That report also proposed new criteria for which frauds should be handled by the department, which was formed in 1988. These would involve "a heavier caseload for and some enlargement of the Serious Fraud Office".

A spokesman for the department said that at present it took on cases that involved more than £5 million. Under the change, it is likely to take on all frauds involving more than £1 million.

George Staple, the director since 1992, welcomed the statement and the recommendations of the Davie report. "This ends the uncertainty over the future of the office and points the way to more effective investigation and prosecution of serious and complex fraud in the future."

In his statement in the Commons, Sir Nicholas said that "despite the often misguided criticism to which the prosecuting agencies have been subject, the Serious Fraud Office and the fraud divisions of the CPS have made real advances since they were set up in the 1980s."

"The Serious Fraud Office has brought to trial 141 major cases involving 309 defendants of whom 191 have been convicted. More significantly, in over 75 per cent of the cases brought to trial by the SFO at least one person has been convicted, usually the principal defendant."

There could be "no room for complacency", Sir Nicholas said. But it could be said with confidence that without the present structures and organisation many of the heaviest cases successfully brought to conviction would never have been tried at all.

Once the recommendations were in place, the ability of the department and the prosecution service "to perform their heavy tasks will be significantly enhanced".

The Davie report also proposed clarification of the role of the police in Serious Fraud Office cases and closer co-ordination between the department and the prosecution service, including a common approach on policy and more interchange of staff.

In the wake of the recent Home Office referrals of the 1990 convictions in the Guinness case back to the Court of Appeal, the department was in crucial need of a seal of approval. The referral of the Guinness cases, which the department regarded as its flagship convictions on City fraud, was the latest in a string of embarassments or failed prosecutions.

Yesterday's decision is a victory for Mr Staple, and for the Attorney-General. Sir Nicholas favoured retaining the department as a separate entity and succeeded in persuading his Cabinet colleagues it should survive in that form.



The trial of Kevin Maxwell, left, and his brother Ian next month will present the Serious Fraud Office with its biggest challenge since it was formed in 1988



Parents foot bill to save teachers

By A Staff Reporter

PARENTS asked to pay £1 a week to prevent redundancies at a primary school appeared to be rallying to the cause yesterday.

Governors at Welford and Sulby Endowed School near Northampton claimed they could not cover a shortfall of £7,500 in their operating budget for the coming year unless parents of the 114 pupils agreed to make a weekly contribution for each child to bridge the gap between income and expenditure.

A letter to parents earlier this week spoke of "an exceptionally serious situation" which meant the small village school would probably not be able to keep all its staff without assistance. Russ Jones, the headmaster said: "The early signs are encouraging: most parents have indicated that they would be willing to help out financially."

The move comes in the wake of national protests from schools facing cuts after the Government declined to fund the teachers' 2.7 per cent pay rise. Governors at some schools have refused to set legal budgets this year and others have resigned in protest.

Although state education must be free by law, parents at Welford and Sulby have been asked to contribute towards the cost of lunchtime supervision for children. A part-time teacher due to leave this summer is not being replaced, but staff numbers would have to be reduced by a further part-time teacher. it is claimed, if sufficient cash pledges were not forthcoming.

The Rev Richard Cattle, chairman of the governors, said the school had been determined to try to retain the existing "excellent" teaching team and keep the ratio of staff to pupils as high as possible.

Pop tycoon mixes rock and rail

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

PETE WATERMAN, the pop tycoon who launched the musical careers of Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan, today takes over Britain's biggest train set — the six locomotives and 200 carriages of British Rail's special charter services.

Mr Waterman, 48, a self-confessed rail addict and former train spotter, became the first private sector operator of BR passenger services at midnight last night. He is thought to have paid £10 million for the assets of BR's charter and special trains unit.

His plans for the company include running daily steam services on the rail network this summer for the first time since 1968 and operating 1950s-style day trip services to traditional seaside resorts including Blackpool and Rhyl.

He will also takes responsibility for Saturday "football specials" and is planning to apply to Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, for a relaxation of the rules that ban alcohol being served on the trains. "If you don't put them in cattle waggons and treat them decently they won't behave like hooligans," he said. He claims the support of the British Transport Police and the Football Association.

He will also operate luxury "Land Cruises" for tourists offering silver service meals from kitchens containing the last working on-train cooking ranges on Britain's railways.

The company takes delivery of its first three locomotives, 30-year-old former BR diesels, this morning. The engines will be decked out in black livery embossed with the Waterman Railways logo.

Mr Waterman, who was given his first Hornby train set at the age of nine, said he hoped to rekindle the magic of rail travel. His first job was as a BR fireman in Wolverhampton before achieving fame in the 1980s as one third of the successful pop producer trio, Stock, Aitken and Waterman. Flying Scotman Railways, his company, is already the biggest owner of restored diesel locomotives in the country.

Stampede for £20m lottery jackpot

Sales of tickets for the National Lottery are 15 per cent higher this week, raising expectations of the first £20 million jackpot, according to Camelot, the operator.

David Rigg, Camelot's director of communications, said that long queues were expected today at the 15,000 retailers selling lottery tickets. As there was no jackpot winner last week, the £10.2 million jackpot has been added to this week's top prize. Statistically, the jackpot is likely to be shared by several people.

Foot improves

Michael Foot, 81, the former Labour Party leader, is said to be making a full recovery after surgery for an intestinal problem at the Royal Free Hospital in London. A hospital spokesman said that Mr Foot, who retired from Parliament in 1992, would be released next week.

Lover jailed

A teenager who strangled his lover with a dog lead after she threatened to tell his parents about their affair was sentenced to life custody for murder. Martin O'Connell, 19, of East Barnet, Hertfordshire, said he felt "disgusted" over the affair with Paula Mottram, 48.

Scope boss quits

Ann Robinson, the chief executive of Scope, formerly the Spasties Society, resigned yesterday after only 18 months in the job. A spokeswoman said a legal agreement prevented her giving reasons for the resignation but "it did not involve anything untoward".

Smith in the clear

The showjumper Harvey Smith will not face charges after a crash last December in which three people died, police said yesterday. He was returning home to Bingley, Yorkshire, from Catterick races when a Ford Escort collided with his horsebox on the A59 near York.

Sleeping giant

The number of passengers using the London to Fort William sleeper service, which is under threat of closure from next month, has risen over the past four years from 13,500 to 14,600 — more than half its capacity.— John Watts, the Rail Minister, said in a written reply.

Axes at dawn

Enfield Council in north London is to seek compensation from the Highways Agency after a 200-year-old tree in a park in the borough was felled in a dawn operation. Residents and councillors wanted the 150ft cedar, which blocked a road-widening scheme, preserved or moved.

Father stole coal

An unemployed man of 26 who stole six lumps of coal from a private colliery in February, when one of his four children was three days old, was given a conditional discharge at Ammanford, Dyfed. His MP accused the Crown Prosecution Service of wasting money and time.

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Thousands evacuated as disposal squad arrives

War veteran refuses to be moved by German bomb

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

ONE of the biggest civilian evacuations since the Second World War is under way today as Army experts prepare to defuse a German bomb that has been buried under a football pitch for 53 years.

About 4,000 people — half the population of the Isle of Portland in Dorset — have been asked to leave their homes until midday on Monday while a squad from the Royal Engineers makes safe the 1,100lb bomb.

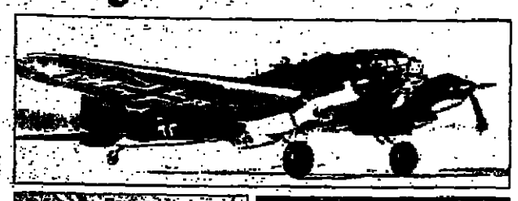
Police and council staff are attempting to evacuate 1,500 houses within 1,000 yards of the device, but some residents whose homes are just 500 yards from the bomb are refusing to go. Inmates of the nearby Portland Young Offenders' Institution will not be moved.

More than 100 extra police are being drafted in to supervise the evacuation and protect property from looters. The operation will cost £250,000, paid for by the council and central government.

It has been estimated that the bomb would leave a crater measuring 20ft by 10ft if it exploded, but Edward Andrews, 71, a local historian who has lived in Portland since the bombing raids in the 1940s, says he will not be blackmailed into leaving, and Robert Hall, 38, a merchant navy deck officer whose home is near the bomb, says he will exercise his free choice to stay. Both men been told that they could be arrested for non-compliance.

Mr Andrews, who lives in Easton, the most built-up area near the device, said yesterday that he believed his stone-built home was strong enough to withstand a bomb blast. "I'm not being foolhardy but I do not want to be evacuated," he said.

"My wife Irene is going because she suffers from high blood pressure, and she is not very happy to be leaving me. However, I think it is more traumatic for elderly people to pack up their belongings and







A Heinkel He 111 bomber, top, of the type that dropped the device on Portland 53 years ago, pictured as it was uncovered on the Portland United pitch

pets and leave than for them to stay."

Mr Hall, who lives alone, said he was "more afraid of man-handling by the police than I am of the bomb explosion". He has written to the police and borough council waiving his rights to compensation should he be injured in a blast. "In my work I make the choice of risking my life on the high seas. I am not afraid of a German bomb. I am choosing to stay in my own home and accept the consequences," he said.

Social workers from Dorset County Council yesterday began to move out people with special needs, including the very old and infirm. Most will stay with friends and relatives or at three caravan parks.

For 50 years Portland United football team played with the 1,100lb bomb lying just a few inches below the surface of the pitch's penalty spot. The device was dropped during a raid by German Heinkel He 111 bombers on Portland naval base on July 2, 1942. A farm was blown apart and villager Harry Clark died.

The device was uncovered last week by workers preparing to turn the former football pitch, where matches were played until last May, into a stone quarry.

Major Nick Clark, of the Army bomb disposal team based in Cambridgeshire, said: "At the moment the bomb is safe as long as it is not subjected to any sudden shock or vibration."

Weymouth police said there were five residents who were "still being a bit difficult about going" and that they would all receive personal visits from the council and the police today. A spokesman said: "We do have legal powers to arrest them if they refuse to go but we do not think it will be necessary. Most are likely to agree in the end because they do not want to be unpopular with the other residents in the community."

The main evacuation will start early today by coach and private car.

MARTIN BEDDALL





Captain William Feakins, chairman of the War Pensions Committee, lays a wreath at the grave of Gunner Lodge, seen below on a Boer War cigarette card

Fanfares for a forgotten hero

NINETY-FIVE years to the day since he won the Victoria Cross in the Boer War, Gunner Isaac Lodge finally had a headstone placed above his grave in Hendon cemetery, north London.

Until yesterday Gunner Lodge, who died in June 1923, lay in an unmarked plot beside his wife Minnie and daughter Gladys. But finally the overdue honours were carried out by a detachment from 5 Regiment, Royal Artillery, and the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery who played fanfares over the grave.

A black granite tablet records that he was the holder of one of four VCs awarded to Q Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, for its action at Sannaspos on March 31, 1900. Lodge attempted to rescue some guns which became trapped under heavy enemy fire during the attack on Bloemfontein.

His portrait was placed at the foot of the stone, with his medal and its purple ribbon.

Skiing, fishing and peat extraction face bans at nature super-reserves

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SCORES of activities that damage the environment, including skiing in parts of the Highlands and quarrying on the Lizard, face being banned with the announcement of extra protection for nearly 300 nature sites.

The sites, including Windsor Forest and Great Park, Ben Nevis and Morecambe Bay, are being raised to the status of Special Areas of Conservation. The Government is giving them tougher legal protection and all existing or planned projects within their bounds will have to be reviewed.

Britain is required to protect areas and species of European-wide importance under the Habitats and Species Directive and is believed to be the first country to draw up a list. It includes the otter, the greater horseshoe bat, lowland raised bogs, heathlands and Caledonian pine forests.

There will be stricter legal controls on the new reserves over such projects such as road-building. Peat-digging may be ended in such areas as the Thorne and Hatfield moors in South Yorkshire. Fishing that damages the bottom of lakes and lochs, for example extracting shellfish from Strangford Lough, Co Down, faces a ban. Barrages planned for some rivers, including the Usk in South Wales, may be forbidden. Levels of pollution allowed in scores of rivers, such as the Itchen in Hampshire, may be cut under the new status.

The list has been welcomed by conservation and environmental groups, although there is concern that the list omits some key sites. Groups claim this is because some areas, such as the Surrey Heaths, are in the way of road schemes including widening the M3 and because others, especially large swaths of Scotland's Caledonian pine forests, are under the control of landowners who do not want the responsibility of more onerus regulations.

Tony Juniper of Friends of the Earth said: "We do have some concerns about the absence of certain Scottish pine forests, the Mendip woodlands, Somerset Levels and Surrey Heaths. But this is on the whole a step forward."

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is concerned that the Countryside Council for Wales, one of the three statutory conservation bodies that must look after the new sites, may be unable to afford to do so. Its budget is being cut and its work streamlined on the orders of John Redwood, the Secretary of State for Wales. Mr Juniper said that it was vital that existing sites of special scientific interest were not sacrificed to pay for improvements at the new reserves.

The list of special areas includes Beinn Dearg, Highland; Sutherland, Highland, famous for Alpine heaths, grasslands and herbs; Borrowdale woods, Cumbria, noted for old oaks; Bredon Hill, Hereford and Worcester, which is home to the violet click beetle; the dry grass and scrublands of the Wye and Crundale Downs in Kent, which are also home to wild orchids; and the Wash and north Norfolk coast, noted for salt meadows, unusual mudflats and sand banks.

Other sites are the Tintagel, Marsland and Clovelly coast in Cornwall; Preseli in Dyfed, home to the southern damselfy, and Hoy in Orkney, with its petrifying springs.

Epping Forest, Essex, noted for beech trees and stag beetles, is listed, as is Ensor's Pool, Warwickshire, habitat for white-clawed crayfish.

CARL RUTHERFORD



Georgia Wilkinson with her pony Jingo. National Grid should be ashamed, she told a planning inquiry

Girl, 13, speaks out against 50-mile power line

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A girl aged 13 has taken on the might of corporate lawyers and planning experts to oppose a proposed 50-mile line of electricity pylons twice the height of Nelson's Column across the Yorkshire countryside.

To applause from campaigners against the 400,000-volt line, which would run from Teesside to Shipton, Georgia Wilkinson said: "Just think of your children's children. Will they look back and think you made the right decision? I read this speech for the children, the people who rarely get a say. Remember it is our generation and our children's children who are going to be most affected by this."

Georgia, whose family runs a farm at Helperby, North Yorkshire, close to where the power lines will run, told the inquiry in Northallerton that National Grid should be ashamed of its plans to build the line across the Vale of York. She urged the government inspectors to support her. She told them: "Although I am very nervous standing in front of you today, I think it is important to speak out against these proposals.

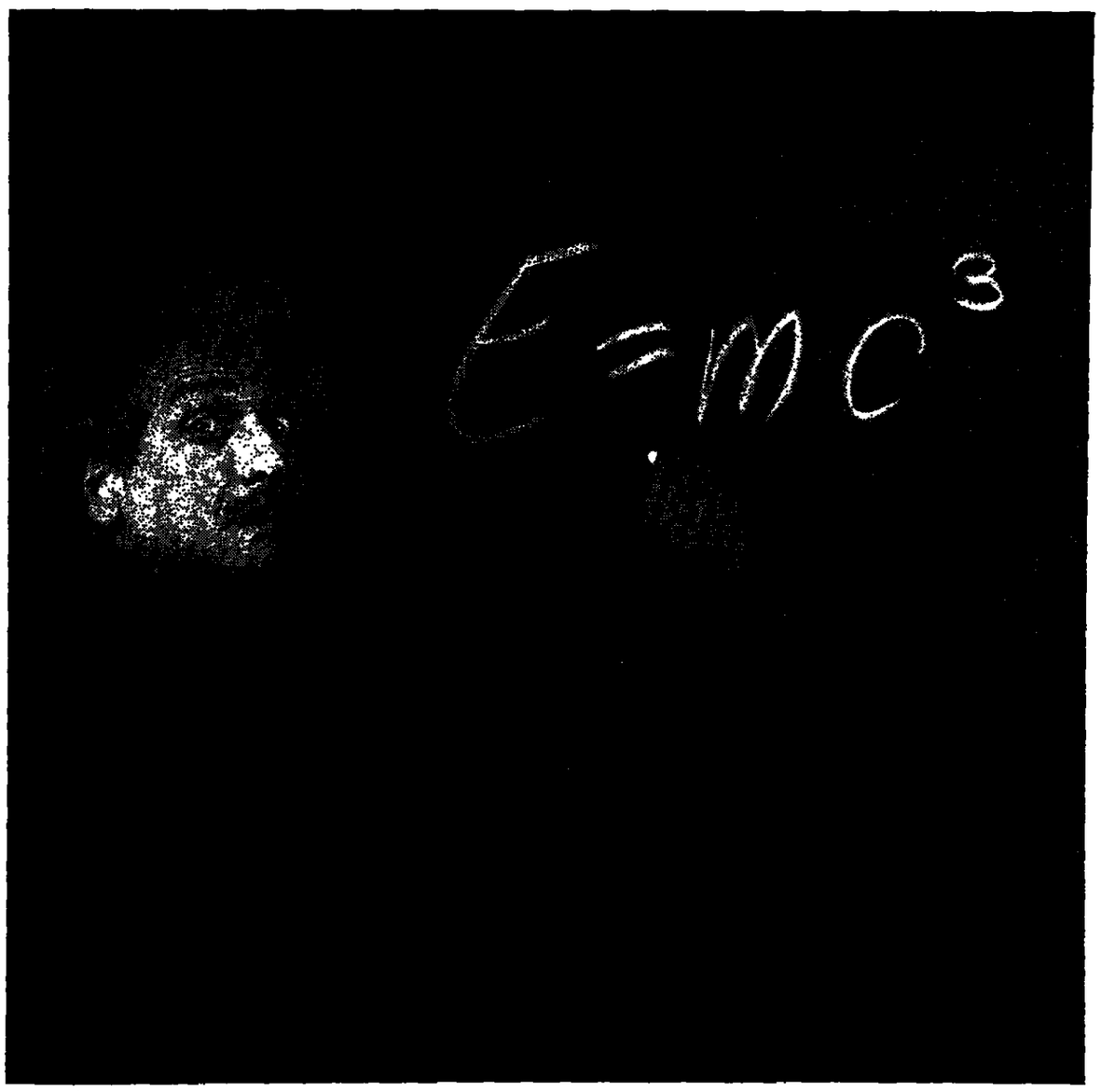
"My parents have made my surroundings very pleasant by planting trees and hedges. They have taught me to love the countryside and look after our land and animals. They have also told me to respect the countryside, for example, by not dropping litter. As I see it, National Grid will be dropping litter in a big way if they get the go-ahead."

Georgia said she feared that if the pylons were built she would not be able to ride her pony Jingo because of the "hissing" overhead wires. She was supported by her brother James, 16, who told the inquiry: "I regard these power lines as visual pollution. I have watched and latterly helped my parents build up this once-derelict farm. I hope to farm here after them and I do not wish to see all their efforts spoilt."

Their mother, Iris Wilkinson, said yesterday: "I feel very proud of my children. We didn't push them, it was something they wanted to do. They felt they should speak up for the younger generation." This week their case was backed by PowerGen, one of the country's power producers, which said there was no economic or technical argument in favour of building the line.

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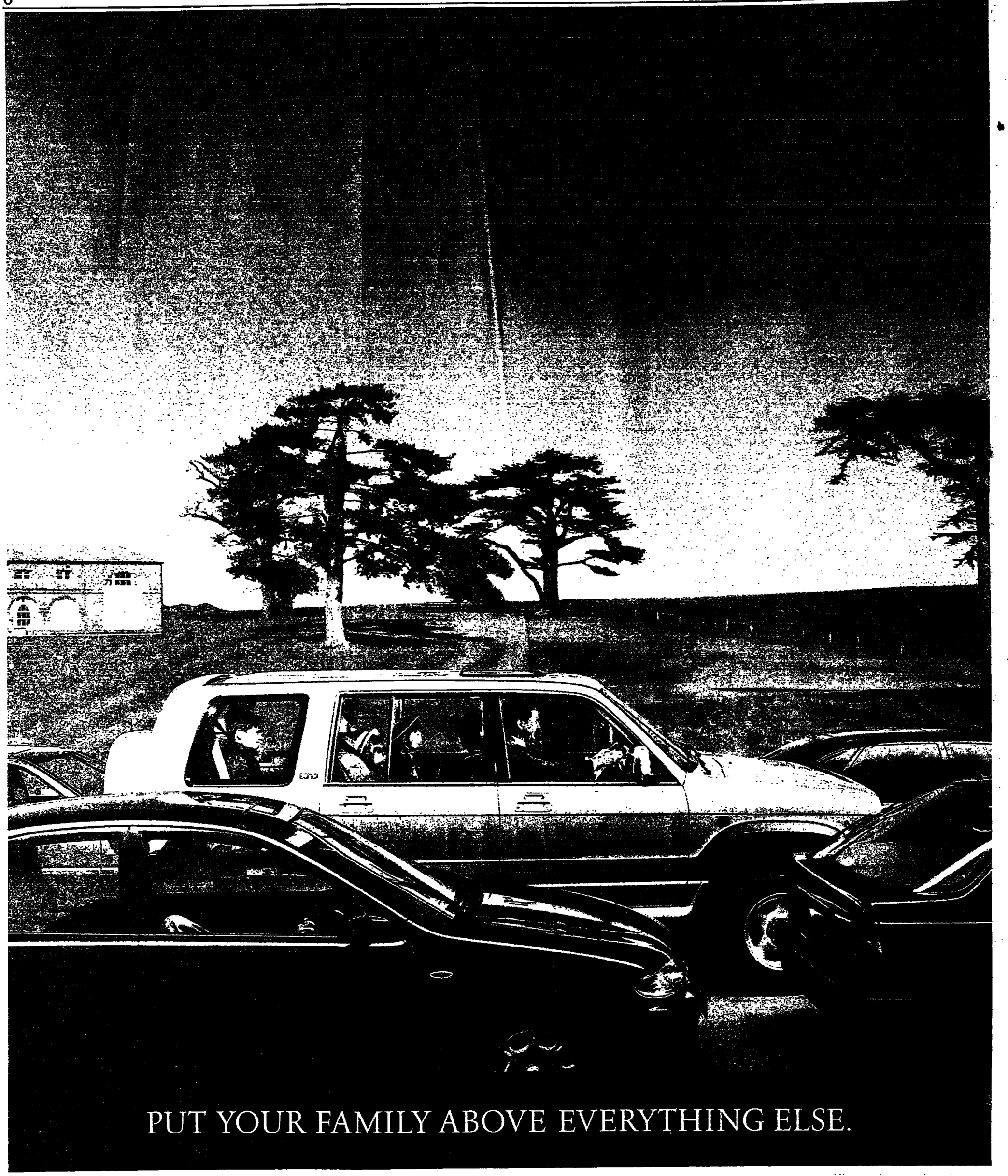


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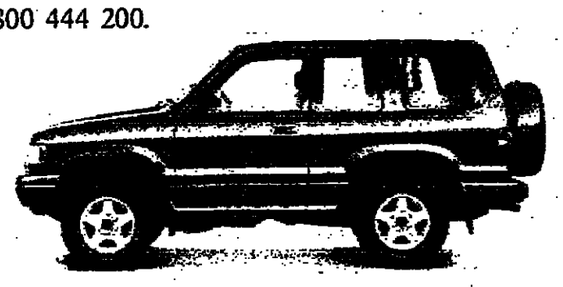
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Business travellers may be denied travel perk

Employers press staff to hand over free flights

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BUSINESS travellers who qualify for free flights under airline loyalty schemes may be forced to hand over "air miles" and other benefits to their employers.

A growing number of companies, frustrated at paying for their staff to travel without receiving what they regard as the discounts, are putting pressure on airlines to give the "frequent flyer miles" to them rather than the individual traveller. The European Commission has been asked to look again at the way the schemes are operated.

The Business Travel Liaison Group has been set up to represent 25 of Britain's biggest companies, which spend more than £500 million a year on foreign travel. Andrew Fletcher, the chairman, who is responsible for British Aerospace's travel budget, said: "We all agree that the benefits should come to us. It does not necessarily mean that the companies themselves should get the bonuses — they could, for example, put them into a general pot for sharing among other employees or give them to charity. But it seems wrong that individuals should get the benefit when they have been *sent somewhere on business.*"

Some of the group's members have banned the use of loyalty programmes and others have suggested that they all order their staff to cash in air miles on the same day, so throwing the airline industry into chaos. "I don't think that is practical but it is an indication of the strength of feeling there is about this," said Mr Fletcher.

A MORI poll for an international business travel agency, Carlson Wagonlit, showed that 58 per cent of company staff agreed that frequent flyer schemes should benefit the company and not the individual. Richard Lovell, group managing director of Wagonlit Travel, said: "There are now so many frequent flyer miles systems in operation that it is the equivalent of 5 to 10 per cent of the cost of an airline ticket. Why should this not be passed on to the *company who paid for it?*"

George Paton, chairman of the Guild of Business Travel Agents, agreed. "I have always believed that companies should be the beneficiaries on the basis that he who pays for the ticket should get the benefit," he said. "Some companies, however, think that this is some kind of benign benefit to their employee which helps morale."

It is estimated that more than 40 million unused airline tickets are outstanding under the schemes. In America almost 10 per cent of companies insist that business travellers hand back their benefits so that they can be used to obtain free or cut-price tickets for other staff. Those that do this claim to have saved between 12 and 15 per cent on travel.

Several large companies in Germany are trying to trace all the accumulated miles outstanding to individual staff members who use Lufthansa as a first move towards asking for them to be handed over. In Sweden leading companies such as Saab-Scania, Electrolux and Volvo are pressing SAS, the national carrier, to award the benefits to them rather than their staff.

Virgin Atlantic gives companies the option of taking mileage points as well as the accumulated credits given to the individual traveller as part of its Virgin Corporate Freeway frequent flyer scheme. About 250 companies have taken up the scheme since it was introduced a year ago.

British Airways Executive Club — to which 90 per cent of those questioned in the MORI survey belonged — remains adamant that the accumulated miles should go to the passenger. "It is a reward to the individual for flying with BA," a spokesman said.

ADRIAN BROOKS



Matthews: "Being a bishop at 40 is wonderful: it is the only thing I know that makes you feel young"

Woman bishop joins Anglican summit team

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the five women bishops in the worldwide Anglican communion has been appointed as a member of the influential planning group for the Lambeth Conference, the ten-yearly meeting for leaders of the Church's 70 million members.

The Right Rev Victoria Matthews, suffragan bishop of Toronto, has been meeting the ten other Anglican leaders in London this week who are planning the agenda for 1998.

It will be the first Lambeth Conference with women bishops present. Supporters of female priests in England are hoping that women, who are eligible for consecration as bishops in America and New Zealand as well as Canada, might be allowed into the episcopate here early in the next millennium.

Bishop Matthews, whose consecration in February last year was the first of a woman bishop not to be disrupted by protesters, said: "I hope that the Church of England will in due time see its way to including women in the episcopate.

"More immediately I look forward to other women in the episcopate in Canada. I look forward to the day when gender is not an issue in the episcopacy in the same way as it is not an issue in the priesthood in Canada.

"People often say I am too young to be a bishop. Being a bishop at 40 is wonderful because it is the only thing I know that makes you feel young."

Canon John Peterson, Secretary-General of the Anglican Communion, said: "A woman certainly brings a dimension that has not before been seen in the male hierarchy of the Church and, of course, we welcome that."

The conference is expected to consider the issue of sexuality, and the refugee and persecution crises facing church members in different parts of the world.

At Your Service, Weekend, page 2

ICI chief appointed to press watchdog

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE Press Complaints Commission has moved to strengthen its public image by appointing one of Britain's most respected industrialists, Sir Denys Henderson, chairman of ICI, to its influential appointments committee.

Sir Denys will be joined on the committee by Sir Geoffrey Holland, vice-chancellor of Exeter University. The other existing members of the committee, chaired by Lord Wakeham of Maldon, are Harry Roche, chairman and chief executive of Guardian Media Group, and Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Shadow Lord Chancellor.

The committee will now appoint its main board, which adjudicates on complaints. Lord Wakeham's attempts to appoint Sir Bernard Ingham, Baroness Thatcher's former press secretary, were thwarted two weeks ago by Lord Irvine, who was concerned that Sir Bernard was not sufficiently impartial.

Frontrunners for a place on the board include Dame Elizabeth Smith, wife of the late Labour leader John Smith, and Baron Tordoff of Knutsford, the Liberal Democrat chief whip in the Lords.

Divorcée drove off cliff after dentistry

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN who thought that she looked like a monster after having a tooth extracted drove to her death over a cliff, a coroner was told yesterday.

Diana Humphries, 51, worried that her dental problem had made her "less than perfect", her brother told an inquest at Dorchester, Dorset. "It had become an obsession that left her fearing she looked like a monster," Colin Gosney said. He had tried to comfort Mrs Humphries two days before her car was found halfway down a 60ft cliff at Weymouth. Her naked body was discovered on the beach below.

Mrs Humphries, a divorcée from Yeovil, Somerset, had been stopped by traffic police at 4am on the day of her death last December. She was dressed only in a nightdress but was allowed to continue after saying she had had domestic troubles.

A pathologist gave her cause of death as drowning. Recording an open verdict, the coroner said: "I am sorry that something so trivial to the rest of us as having a tooth out should have thrown her into distress."

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Hanley takes whip to 'Trojan horse' Blair

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is a "Trojan horse" for a Labour party still tethered to the old politics of envy and class warfare, Jeremy Hanley said yesterday as senior ministers sought to break the spell the Labour leader appears to have cast over much of Middle England.

Against the background of opinion polls suggesting that the middle-class is flocking to Labour, the Conservative Party chairman portrayed Mr Blair as a hypocritical opportunist stealing Tory clothes to cloak his "naked ambition".

Mr Hanley told the central council: "Mr Blair is a Trojan horse, inside which lurks the trade union bosses, the apostles of the politics of envy, the politically correct, the loonies from Labour councils, the luvvies and the Lefties."

On a host of issues, he said, Mr Blair talked of one thing while his party wanted the opposite: "Blair talks about free markets. But Labour wants nationalisation and intervention. Blair talks about opportunity. And is very happy to use it for his own family. What hypocrisy — his party still attacks parental choice in schools. Blair talks about parental responsibility. But Labour opposed our measures to make parents responsible for the crimes of their children. Blair talks about fair taxes. But Labour has always meant high taxes."

New Labour was the same as Old Labour — a party of the fringe and not the majority. It could never speak for the country as a whole.



Hanley: attack on loonies and luvvies

Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, joined the assault, ridiculing the attempts by Labour's public relations consultants to present Mr Blair as a "closet Tory" and claiming that there were deep differences between Mr Blair and John Prescott, his deputy leader, who still backed old-style socialism and the redistribution of power and wealth.

He called for the party to rally around the Prime Minister in the run-up to the general election. "I've heard it said that we need a period in opposition. I have been in opposition, not many of my colleagues have. There is absolutely nothing to be said for it," he said.

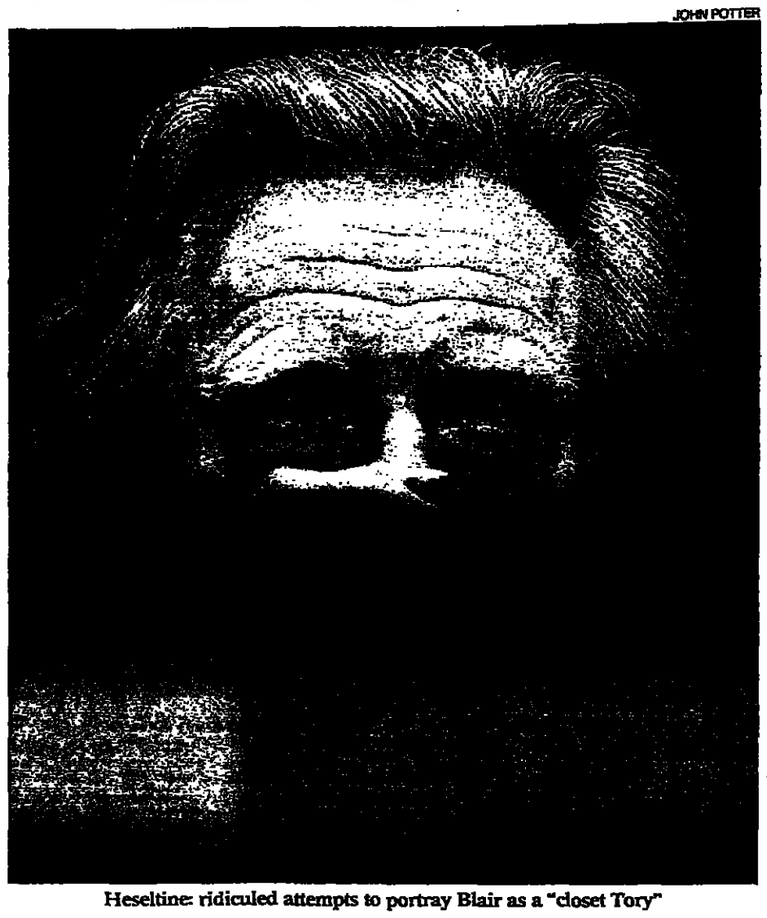
Mr Hanley strongly defended Cedric Brown, chief executive of British Gas, against Mr Blair's attacks on his 75 per cent salary rise and his lucrative share options package.

"What kind of twisted, perverse set of priorities leads a public school-educated party leader to savage the salary of a man who left state school at 16, joined a company, took up a pick and shovel and worked himself up to the top? The reality behind Labour's attitude is this: if you are a millionaire, you are the lowest form of vermin, to be hounded out of the country. Unless you are a millionaire who gives money to the Labour Party, in which case you are a wonderful person to be feted and celebrated."

The Tory chairman also derided Mr Prescott and Robin Cook as he invited his audience to contemplate briefly the "nightmare" world of a future Labour Government. Mr Cook would be hobnobbing as Labour's Foreign Secretary with Fidel Castro. Mr Prescott would prove a surly National Heritage Secretary — arriving late for Cabinet meetings, insulting his driver and "demonstrating his commitment to our historic national culture by pouring out a stream of well-preserved Anglo-Saxon words."

Leading article, page 17

JOHN POTTER



Heseltine: ridiculed attempts to portray Blair as a "closet Tory"

Heseltine attacks 'death-wish whingers'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

DEATH-wish Tories should stop whingeing and start fighting for victory at the next election, Michael Heseltine said yesterday. The President of the Board of Trade brushed aside defeatist talk about the Tories needing a period in opposition as he rallied the faithful in Birmingham to reverse the huge Labour lead in the polls.

In a hard-hitting speech to the Conservative Central Council, Mr Heseltine said the task for Conservatives was to find in themselves "that inner strength, that faith to articulate what every day becomes more self-evident — that we have to put this country's economy upon a path that is the envy of the world".

Britain had led the world in a revolution that had seen a wholesale shake-up or sell-off of state industries and revitalised private sectors across the world. The Tories had not been afraid to take tough decisions and the country was now reaping the benefits.

Party plans to tighten grip on associations

BY OUR CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservative Party took the first step yesterday towards an overhaul of the party machine aimed at giving Central Office more power over local associations.

The proposal cleared its first hurdle yesterday when a debate on controversial items such as centralising fundraising and membership records passed without provoking a grassroots uprising.

Sir Basil Feldman, chairman of the National Union Executive Committee, indicated afterwards that the party structure should not be reviewed until after the next election. The next two years should not be wasted on "navel" gazing, he said. The party had to concentrate on getting more activists and selling the Government's policies on the doorstep.

"The thing we have got to spend our time on in the next two years is not constitutional changes . . . we have time to look at that perhaps after we have won the next election."

Tory party leaders have become increasingly envious of the power Labour headquarters has over its local parties. Labour has gained an organisational head-start over the Tories by co-ordinating its response to constituency boundary changes, imposing candidates in by-elections and setting up a centralised computer record of party members.

Jeremy Hanley, the Tory party chairman, fears that at the next election Labour will be able to outspend the Conservatives for the first time. His internal forecasts suggest that Labour will have an election war chest of £15 million — much more than the Conservatives' £9 million.

Yesterday Mr Hanley sought to dispel some of the gloom in party ranks by dismissing as "rubbish" press reports that the Conservatives were facing a financial crisis. Contributions from local parties and business donors were up in the past year and for the second year running Central Office had recorded a surplus, which would help to offset its £15 million overdraft.

Local Tory associations are jealous of their independence and would fiercely resist any attempt to give headquarters sweeping control over their money, assets and membership records. Senior activists attending the Conservative Central Council meeting in Birmingham said privately that it was pie in the sky for the party leadership to think that they might agree to compromise their independence.

In a mark of the sensitivity of the issue, a 40-minute debate behind closed doors yesterday at the meeting was billed as a discussion and no vote was taken. Three of the ten speakers openly backed the move as long as it was linked to injecting greater democracy into the Tory party's internal structure.

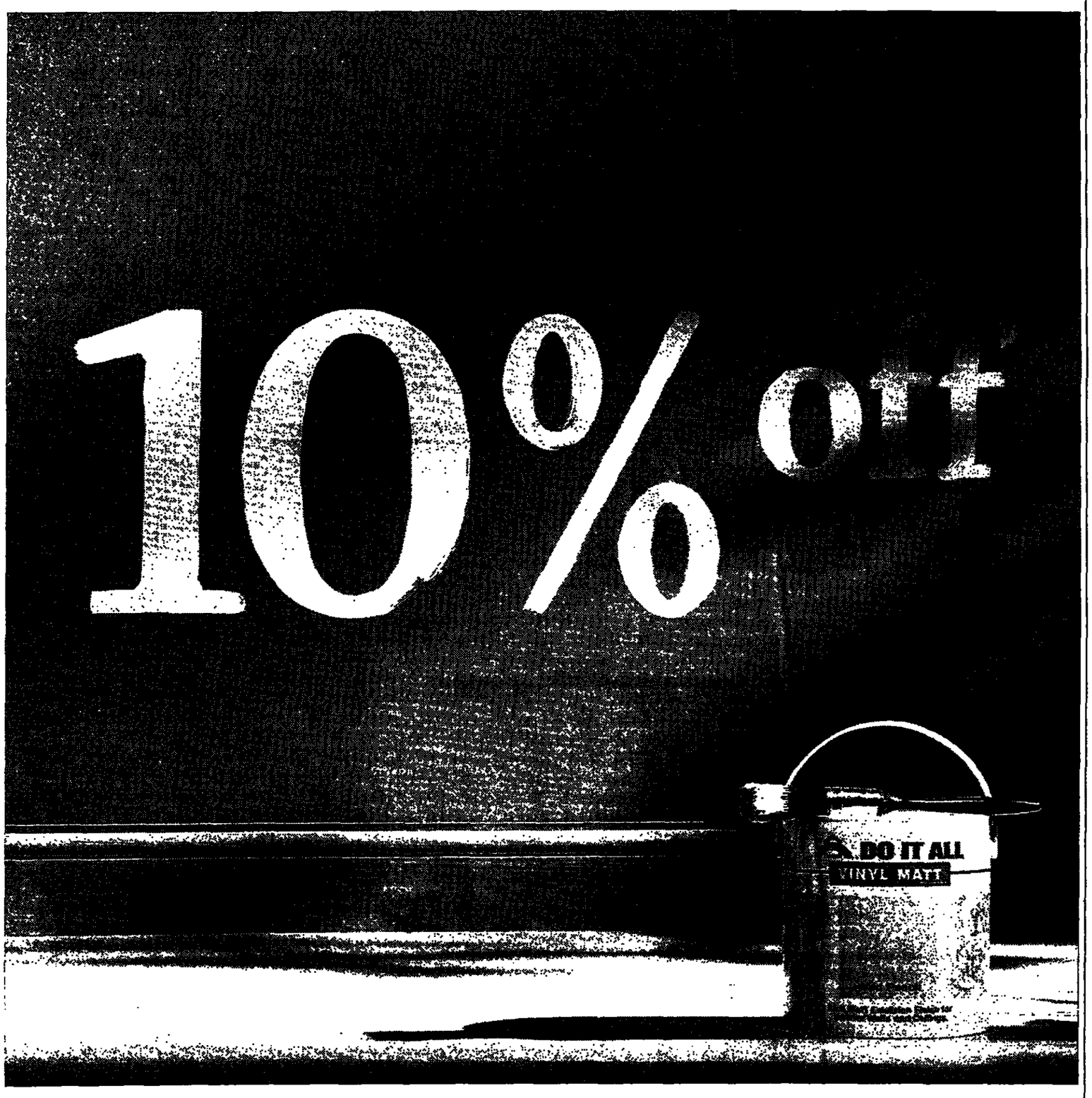
John Strafford from Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, said that while Labour and Liberal Democrat party chiefs could communicate with their members in 24 hours, the Tories could not manage it in a month. Eric Chalker from Beckenham, southeast London, said: "The party is in deep trouble. We have to look at the party as a whole, not when it's in a hole and certainly not when it's in a bottomless pit."



Sir Basil: no time to waste

Elgar Jenkins from Bath called for regional grouping of agents to help constituencies without the money to employ one of their own. He backed a central database to improve communication.

Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, page 16



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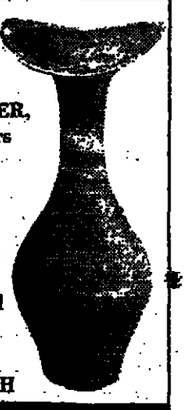
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Howard tells parents to turn off the television



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Home Secretary condemns the bad influence of programmes on children

Howard tells parents to turn off the television

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS should turn off the television if they are worried about its influence on their children, Michael Howard said yesterday as he stepped up his efforts to restore the reputation of the Conservatives as the party of law and order.

The Home Secretary delivered his no-nonsense piece of advice as he committed himself to rooting out "soft-headed" ideas about crime and punishment. The Conservatives wanted to create a "neighbourly society" in which people thought of others as well as themselves and did not walk by on the other side". Such attitudes did not spring out of thin air. They needed to be nurtured in strong and caring families in which children received love, guidance and discipline.



Howard: children must be taught respect

Children had to be taught respect for their parents, for others and for the community, and if parents felt their efforts were being undermined by what their children saw on the screen, they had an instant remedy to hand.

"Many parents complained bitterly about the bad influence of television programmes on their children," Mr Howard told the Conservative Central Council meeting in Birmingham. "Sometimes they are right. But they should never forget one simple point. Parents all over the country have a fearsome weapon in their hands. Guaranteed to strike terror into the heart of every child. One hundred per cent effective. There's no known defence against it. It's called the off-switch. My advice to parents is simple. As the electricity companies say in their adverts, 'You've got the power'. Use it. Use it. Use it."

Mr Howard countered Labour's claims that the free-wheeling 1980s had produced a selfish, thoughtless society. He pointed out that during that decade the number of people giving their time to voluntary work had risen 15 per cent to a total of 17 million. He was determined to expand this army of people prepared to "help others, lend a hand, create the neighbourly society". The new "Make a Difference" campaign would soon be encouraging more people to act as good neighbours.

The Home Secretary also promised to forge ahead with his law-and-order crusade. "I have been bitterly attacked by the politically correct brigade who don't believe in punishment. I have not the slightest intention of backing down. We must never forget the central principle that individuals are responsible for their own actions. There has been much talk about the causes of crime. We must do all we can to find and deal with them. But if you ask victims, they will tell you the cause of crime in one word. Criminals. I want criminals properly punished."

Action had been taken to restrict the use of cautions for young troublemakers, to make hard physical work part of community sentences and to make strict discipline a watch-word in the new secure training centres planned for young offenders.

Mr Howard added that he would never give in to an ever rising tide of crime, but claimed that the tide was beginning to turn.

"The police have had some real successes over the last year," he said. "The biggest drop in recorded crime for 40 years. Fewer burglaries. A drop in car crime. They've been taking the initiative. Taking the fight to the criminal. I want to see us all playing our part. Teaching our youngsters right from wrong. Helping the police. Giving evidence to the courts. But I want more than that. I want a positive crusade to build a society of good neighbours."



John Major, with an apparent disregard for the Home Secretary's suspicions of the harmful effects of television, found time yesterday to share intimate details of his personal life with Anne Diamond, Nick Ross and their estimated one million viewers. During his appearance on BBC1's *Good Morning with Anne and Nick*, the Prime Minister disclosed that politics was rarely on the agenda when he was at home and insisted that media criticism no longer got him down. Offering a rare glimpse into his private life, he spoke of the importance of his home and family in helping him shut the door on the controversies of politics. The Prime Minister, doing his propaganda offensive no harm by adroitly finding time to appear on a show watched by 40 per cent of the breakfast television audience, spoke of his confidence of leading the Conservatives into the next election. Politics was a tough trade, he said, but it was rewarding. His wife Norma, he confided, was not instinctively a political animal: "We do not talk politics."

Prime time with Anne and Nick

Hurd refuses to countenance shoddy diplomacy

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

DOUGLAS HURD yesterday fired a warning shot at the Treasury, vowing to protect Britain's diplomatic missions overseas. The Foreign Secretary appeared to be responding to hints that Jonathan Aitken, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, would be seeking cutbacks in the diplomatic budget.

Mr Aitken is reported to be concerned that, of the £1.3 billion spent on Britain's embassies, less than £100 million goes on the direct promotion of export and trade. But Mr Hurd, speaking at a dinner in Birmingham last night, said that he did not intend Britain to be represented in a "shoddy or second-rate way".

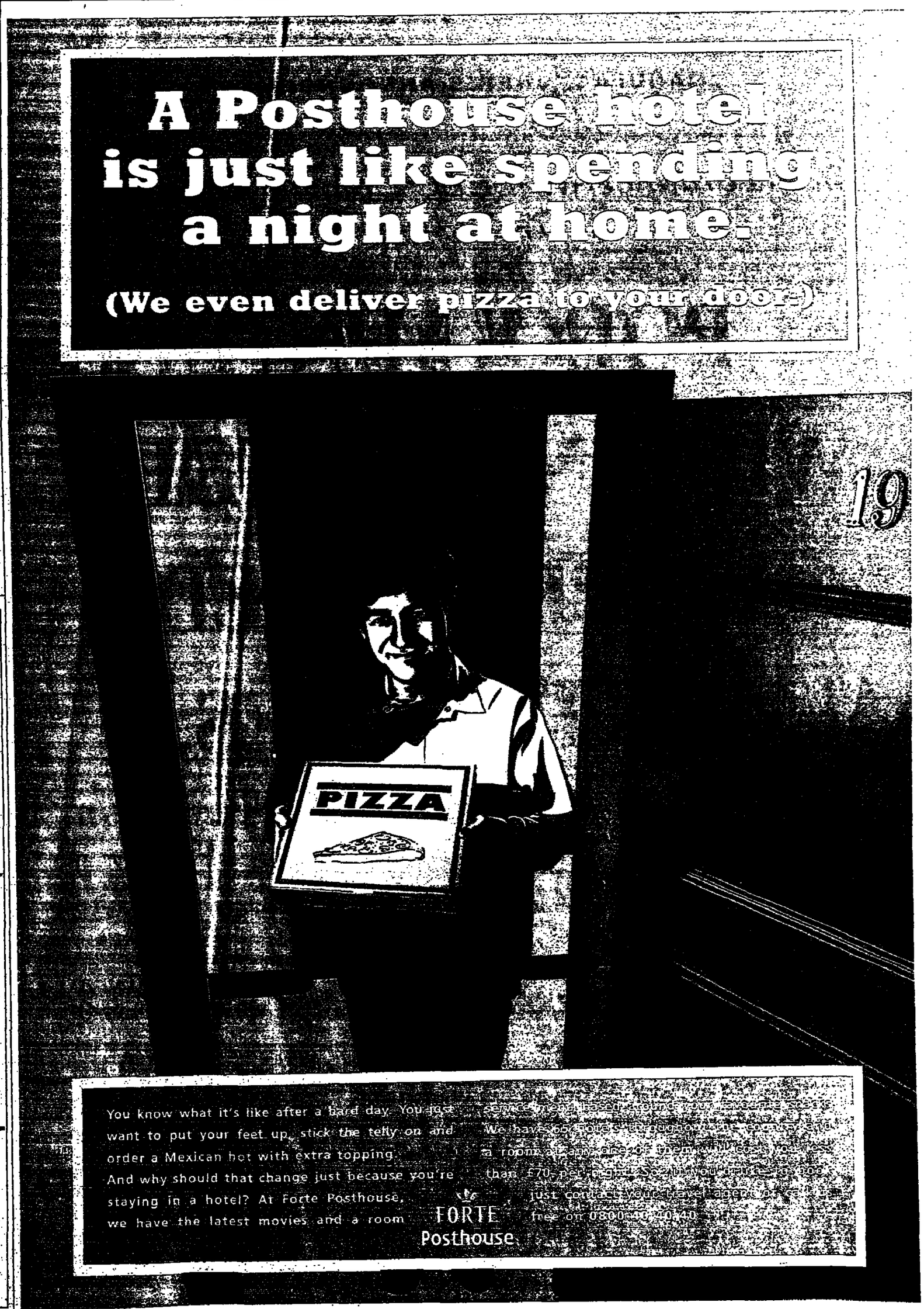
Countries all over the world, he said, wanted what Britain had to offer and they wanted international organisations such as NATO and the UN to reflect British values and policies. "British assets, old and new, are back in demand — much more than we give ourselves credit for," he said.

The diplomatic service was one of the assets which the Government was constantly trying to keep up-to-date: "We have been cutting the tail to enhance the teeth. We have been exploiting new technology to cut back 500 jobs at home so that we can send 100 extra commercial officers overseas."

However, the Foreign Secretary said that modernising did not mean giving up the few historic buildings the country owned and retreating to suburban villas.



Hurd: no retreat



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Silver-tongued strategist awaits reward for leading Gaullist wolf to the Elysée Palace door

Chirac's rise rattles Brussels gravy train

PARIS FILE
by GEORGE BROCK



THE European Union's great and good are bracing themselves for a Jacques Chirac presidency in France. Eurocrats and diplomats who had been happily expecting to watch the more emollient Edouard Balladur elected next month are distinctly more nervous at the prospect of having M Chirac, the old Gaullist wolf, in the presidential palace in Paris.

M Chirac is no Euro-sceptic, but he is suspicious of Brussels. He delivered an intricately balanced speech on Europe recently, which achieved the tricky feat of making *both federalists and sceptics in his* party happy. Brussels is also waiting to find out what prize M Chirac will hand to the speech's chief author, Pierre Lellouche.

M Lellouche, a loquacious 43-year-old foreign affairs pundit, joined *M Chirac's team in 1987 and* will be well rewarded for sticking to him through thick and thin. Two years ago, he tired of the global conference circuit and won a seat in parliament. *M Lellouche's name* is touted as Defence or even Foreign Minister. Even if his youth bars him from high office, he is heading for influence at the top.

Insider jargon about post-Cold War global strategy, couched in fluent American English, streams from M Lellouche. He wants the *EU to develop its own fighting* forces — but without federal institutions in Brussels — and thinks such a force "might, just might" have averted the civil war in Bosnia. His cagey conversation on federalism is littered with buzz-words such as "variable geometry" and "à la carte options". He says he does not want "the Brits to fall off the train".

M Lellouche is careful because M Chirac must be cautious. There are rumours that M Chirac and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, would each appoint a high-level negotiator to put the Franco-German partnership back on track. M Lellouche looks like a natural *candidate to represent M Chirac.*

Even talking diplo-speak, M Lellouche does not buy the classical federalist recipe. "The concept of federalism doesn't mean anything in France, same as the United Kingdom. It means something in Germany and in Italy," is all he *will say. But he is on record as* favouring a referendum before France joins a single currency and evidently shares M Chirac's view that the nation state is the centre of gravity in whatever system the EU next decides to organise. British ministers who find themselves *dealing with M Lellouche will* agree with some, but not all, of his ideas — if they can get a word in.



Pierre Lellouche, left, campaigning in Paris with Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader

Invisible man bugged

SINCE the resignation of Belgium's Foreign Minister in the bribes-for-helicopters scandal last week, Willy Claes, Nato's Belgian Secretary-General, has gone to ground with influenza and has been dubbed "the invisible man". Mr Claes has insisted that he will not resign, but potential replacements are discreetly straightening their ties. If he steps down, expect to hear the names of: Ruud Lubbers, the former Dutch Prime Minister, Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish politician, and Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary.

Vision of a sweet nothing

STUDENTS of Edouard Balladur's enigmatic pronouncements on Europe should consult the memoirs of Michel Jobert, who served President Pompidou in the 1970s alongside the young Balladur. The future Prime Minister suggested one day that the "European Community" should be renamed the "European Union". Someone asked: "But what does it mean?" M Balladur replied: "Nothing. But then that's the great beauty of it."

☐ Europe's prime ministers seem to have begun an *informal competition to produce* an advertising slogan to sell the EU's unappetisingly named "inter-governmental conference" to the people of the continent. Full marks to Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian's Prime Minister. His suggestion is: "One small step for man, one *giant leap for Europe.*" Don't ring us, Jean-Luc, we'll ring you.

MANUFACTURER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

In accordance with EEC Council Regulation

(EC) 631/95

POLO MINTS WILL NO LONGER BE PRODUCED WITH HOLES.

The Regulation *('[EC] 631/95 Aperture Abolition')* states: 'that producers of tubular foodstuffs, in all member nations, are now required to delete holes from their products'.

Such a ruling clearly affects the manufacture of Polo Mints.

Moreover, immediate compliance with The Regulation is required.

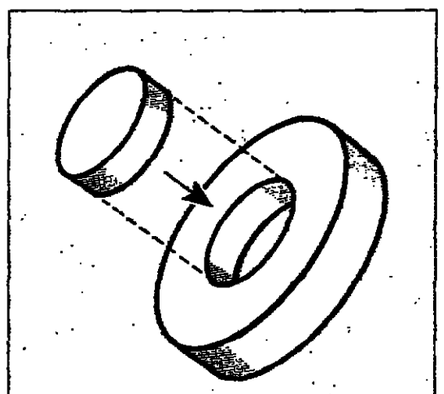


Fig.1.

Therefore a EURO-CONVERSION KIT will be supplied with each tube of Polos. To minimise further distress, this will be **free-of-charge.**

Each kit will contain twenty 7mm 'Hole Fillers' *(see Fig. 1).* Four separate flavours will be available, allowing for the conversion of Original, Strong, Spearmint and Sugar Free variants.

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To avoid any possible confusion, a **detailed instruction leaflet** is also included.

Finally, we'd like to thank you for supporting Polo with holes so faithfully and for so long.

You can rest assured that we will fight this all the way, and shall be challenging The Regulation *(along with Italian Macaroni Manufacturers)* in the European High Court under Clause No. 1. Section 4, para. 95.

Polo–the mint without the hole.

Chechen fighters slip away as main stronghold falls

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

RUSSIAN forces yesterday captured the Chechen town of Shali, the last main centre in rebel hands.

The Chechen fighters, however, had already slipped away into the Caucasus mountains a few miles to the south or hidden their weapons and melted into the civilian population.

Gudermes, Chechenia's second city, fell on Thursday. Organised resistance on the plains of Chechenia now seems to be coming to an end, and the Russian Government claimed that "military operations are now at an end".

The Russian Defence Ministry said its troops had met no resistance when they entered Shali yesterday afternoon. It had previously issued an ultimatum to any remaining fighters in the city to surrender.

The only key town still in the hands of General Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen leader who is on the run, is Achkhoy-Martan in the southwest, which is expected to fall soon. The whereabouts of General Dudayev, and of General Aslan Maskhadov, his military commander, are unknown. Shali became the rebels' headquarters after the capital, Grozny, was seized by the Russians in February.

Before their removal, General Dudayev and his supporters had repeatedly vowed to wage a long-running guerrilla war from the Caucasus mountains. "From now on, no Russian will ever be safe here," a defender of Grozny pledged in January. The Chechens also evoke the example of Shamil, their national hero, who fought a guerrilla war against the Russians for 25 years in the last century.

Russia, in an effort to prevent such an armed insurgency, this week severely restricted access into its territory from the Transcaucasian republics of Georgia and Azerbaijan. The Chechens are banking on being able to smuggle in arms across the mountains.

The Russian view, however, is that there is little danger of support for the Chechen separatists from these governments. Both countries fear Moscow, which has troops stationed in Georgia. Moreover, Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, is an old and bitter enemy of General Dudayev, who had backed Mr Shevard-nadze's opponents in recent civil wars in Georgia.

"These assessments encourage Russian military analysts to discount the possibility of Chechenia becoming another Afghanistan. They point out that Chechenia and the mountain area cover only a small territory. A greater danger is the threat of a terrorist war, with the Russians fearful of a campaign using the tactics of the IRA or the Basque Eta separatists in Spain.

Moscow is also hoping that its victory over the Chechens will remove the thorny issue from the agenda during President Clinton's visit to Moscow next month to mark the 50th anniversary of VE-Day. The meeting between President Clinton and President Yeltsin is already burdened with disputes, from Russia's intended sale of nuclear reactors to Iran to America's plans to expand Nato to include former Warsaw Pact countries.

In another sign that Chechenia remains a diplomatic embarrassment for Russia, Alain Juppé, the French Foreign Minister, was reported this week to be pressing for a stronger European Union line against Moscow over its military action. He wants the Union to issue a fresh warning to Moscow that a planned trade agreement would not be unfrozen unless Moscow changes its policy.

Foreign Office stung by critics

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

IN A sign that the Foreign Office has been stung by claims that it is wasteful, Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, and Alastair Goodlad, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, have rebuked critics who suggest that the diplomatic service runs over-lavish embassies. "We are not pretending to be grander than we are, but I do not intend our country to be represented in a shoddy or second-rate way," Mr Hurd said.

The Britain in the World conference in London this week prompted a series of attacks on the amount spent on British missions abroad. Mr Hurd and Mr Goodlad used almost identical phrases to counter their critics. "Modernising does not mean giving up the few historic buildings we own and retreating to suburban villas," Mr Hurd told the Conservative Party Central Council in Birmingham last night. In a letter to *The Economist*, Mr Goodlad wrote: "Lavish embassies are a soft target. We are fortunate to have inherited some prestigious and beautiful buildings. Little would be gained — and much lost — by moving to the suburbs."



Goodlad: rejects moving envoys to the suburbs

Mr Hurd also implicitly criticised Euro-sceptics in the Conservative Party. "There has been a sour note to the debate on Europe, in our party and in this country," the Foreign Secretary said. "That sour note and the appearance of division loses us more supporters than the content of the argument."

Television Licence Fee Increase

With effect from [illegible] licence fees are £28.50 [illegible] and £86.50 for [illegible]

DIRECT DEBIT SCHEME

The new rates will [illegible]

QUARTERLY BUDGET [illegible]

When the [illegible] quarterly [illegible] will be based [illegible] the two [illegible] 3 payments [illegible] period [illegible]

MONTHLY BUDGET [illegible]

A period [illegible] advice [illegible] and costs

DIRECT DEBIT [illegible]

1. The [illegible] the new [illegible]
2. If you [illegible] payments [illegible] the term of the [illegible] current licence [illegible] debited with [illegible] new rate [illegible] licence and [illegible]

ANNUAL DIRECT DEBIT OR CREDIT [illegible]

Your account [illegible] on or [illegible] following the [illegible] expiry

TV LICENSING

DIRECT DEBIT HELPLINE

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

Romanian witness tells of explosion before air crash

BY ANIANA AHUJA, BEN MONRO-DAVIES AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ALL 59 people on board were killed when a Romanian airliner flying to Brussels crashed shortly after take-off from Bucharest yesterday.

Witnesses reported an explosion before the airliner plunged into a field near Balotesti, north of Bucharest. Later it was disclosed that the Brussels flight had been the target of a bomb threat a fortnight ago. Nothing was found on board the Boeing 737 airliner operating the service on that day and it flew on to Belgium. Neither the police nor Tarom would speculate yesterday about a possible connection with yesterday's disaster.

The Airbus A310 of the Romanian state airline Tarom went down at 9.11am local time, about a minute and a half after leaving Otopeni international airport. The plane was carrying 49 passengers and ten crew. The airline said 32 of the victims were Belgians. There were thought not to be any Britons on board.

Tarom said nothing unusual was seen on radar before the crash and that pilot error and bad weather had been ruled out as possible causes, although it was snowing and raining at take-off. The airline said it was nevertheless grounding its two other Airbuses pending an investigation. Shortly after the crash, police sealed Baneasa domestic airport in Bucharest after a bomb threat was received.

A railway worker told a local radio station that he saw an explosion from the aircraft before it hit the ground. "I was very afraid when I saw and heard an explosion in the air and I saw the plane flying too low with fire coming from the back," Valentin Mocanu said. "There was a second explosion when the plane touched the ground."

Other witnesses reported seeing suitcases and bodies strewn over a huge scorched area in a deep crater. Vasile Alupoaiei, a firefighter, said his crew battled in vain to put out the burning aircraft. "It was real carnage. We fought for an hour-and-a-half with the flames."

Those awaiting arrival of the flight at Brussels were not told until half an hour after it was due that it had crashed. They appear to have been alerted by the presence of reporters, who had earlier agreed not to reveal details of the crash before an official announcement was made.

Officials denied they had been slow to react. "As soon as we had confirmation we told people. We did what we could," Paul Ulens of the Brussels Airport Transport Company, said. He added that it was usually the responsibility of the airline and not the airport authority to inform the next of kin of an accident. Doctors, a psychologist and priests were brought in and a telephone line was set up. Patrick du Bois, a spokesman for Sabena, the Belgian national airline, said: "We are trying to give as much help as possible to families and friends." A plane is being sent from Brussels to retrieve the bodies of the Belgian nationals who died in the crash. Airbus Industrie, the aircraft's makers, said the crash was the third involving the A310 Airbus, which entered service in 1983. One crashed in Kathmandu, Nepal in 1992 in bad weather and a second in March 1994 on its way from Moscow to Hong Kong. Tarom has been steadily upgrading its fleet since the fall of communism in 1989, adding modern Boeing 737 and Airbus aircraft to its fleet of mainly Soviet-era aircraft.



Officials of the Romanian Interior Ministry examine a mangled window section, one of the larger pieces of the crashed Airbus 310

Birthday honours for Kohl, 65, have hint of a farewell

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL can officially draw his pension from Monday when he celebrates his 65th birthday but, despite hopeful rumblings from the opposition, early retirement seems far from the German Chancellor's mind.

For days there has been a conspiratorial atmosphere in the Chancellery. A surprise party is to be sprung, a cake is being baked in conditions of open secrecy at the German leader's favourite Bonn confectioner, and opposition politicians are honing the irony of congratulatory telegrams.

"It is a birthday like any other," claimed a Christian Democrat aide, but his comment was promptly belied by his party's propd publication of a 30-page collection of flattering, shrewdly edited tributes to the leader.

One Christian Democrat deputy, Dr Egon Klepsch, has come up with the idea of creating a German equivalent of the Mount Rushmore cliff carving. On a Saxon mountainside, the faces of Konrad Adenauer, Willy Brandt and Herr Kohl are to be hewn out by a sculptor.

Sixty-fifth birthday fanfares mark only the beginning of what seems set to be three years of tributes. Next year Herr Kohl will overtake Adenauer's 14-term record stint as German leader and publishers are already cooking up celebratory volumes that will honour both men.

The Chancellor's promise that he will not stand again for election in 1998 has focused attention on his personality. Christian Democrats, in particular, are wondering what will happen to their party without Herr Kohl at the helm.

If a new candidate is to be built up in time for the 1998 election, then a crown prince will have to be found by 1997 at the latest. The favourite is Wolfgang Schauble, the parliamentary floor leader who has been confined to a wheelchair since a 1990 assassination attempt and recently emphasised his physical fitness for high office.

Even Herr Schauble admits that the best solution for the party would be if Herr Kohl simply went on and on. Certainly the German leader seems remarkably robust. After recent surgery on his knee, the Chancellor used a stick for only three days and then discarded it.

Herr Kohl, however, seems ready to honour his promise and depart the scene before the end of this legislature. Sometimes labelled a "Bismarck with a cardigan", the portly Herr Kohl may soon be reaching for his carpet slippers.



Television Licence Fee Increase

With effect from 1 April 1995, the new licence fees are £28.50 for black and white and £86.50 for colour.

DIRECT DEBIT SCHEMES
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MONTHLY BUDGET PLAN
A personal payment plan will be issued in advance, giving details of all payment amounts and dates.

DIRECT DEBIT INSTALMENT PLAN
1. The monthly instalment will now be 1/10th of the new fee, ie. £2.85 for a black and white licence or £8.65 for colour.
2. If you are currently paying monthly instalments towards your next licence based on the old fee then, on the last day of the month before your current licence expires, your account will be debited with the difference between the old and new fees, bringing the total to £86.50 for a colour licence and £28.50 for a black and white licence.

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Issued by the Department of the Environment

Japan confronts wartime past to find future role

Richard Owen, Foreign Editor, reports from Tokyo on the many global and internal challenges facing Japan

THE hit musical in Tokyo this spring is about the Marlene Dietrich of Japan, the 1930s actress and singer Ri Koran, and is set during the brutal Japanese occupation of Manchuria. The aim is to use the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Pacific War to "hand down the truth to younger generations" about Japan's wartime atrocities in China and South East Asia. Over at the Diet, a parallel drama is being acted out over whether Japan should express — as Tomiichi Murayama, the Socialist Prime Minister, puts it — "profound remorse" for the "unbearable suffering and sorrow" caused by Japan's wartime behaviour.

Japan is going through a period of intense soul searching. The old Cold War certainties no longer apply, and Japan has been cast adrift. According to Minoru Morita, a leading commentator, Japan's once confident demand for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council is losing momentum. "First we have to sort out our own society and politics — including coming to terms with the past," Mr Morita says. "We have to mature".

Japanese political life has been shaken into new patterns since the electoral defeat of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) two years ago, after nearly 40 years in power. Modern Japanese traits — conformity, company loyalty, lifetime employment — are being questioned. The Kobe earthquake, and the slow response to it, symbolised these seismic shifts. The nerve-gas attack on the Tokyo subway, and the link to an apocalyptic cult, have added to national unease.

For half a century Japan has forged ahead as an economic "Asian tiger", while avoiding the awkward question of national self-assertion. It has relied on the United States for strategic defence: the US-imposed post-war constitution renounces the use of force "forever", and forbids the build up of permanent armed forces. In reality, the "Self Defence Force" — now accepted as legitimate by the Left — has 250,000 men under arms, equipped with tanks, warships, and fighters, and is developing theatre missile defences.

Japan has to face possible American disengagement, despite Pentagon assurances that the US-Japanese relationship remains the "linchpin of American security policy in Asia". Japan faces a hostile North Korea and the fearsome might of China. "The Cold War is not over in the Korean peninsula," one senior official said. Japan is also sceptical of "reformist" Russia. Defence experts such as Professor Masashi Nishihara can even envisage a time when Japan might have to weigh the political cost of developing nuclear weapons to deter Peking or Pyongyang.

Less apocalyptically, Professor Nishihara suggests that Japan must develop political and military relationships with its Asian neighbours. It faces pressure from Malaysia to join an "all Asian" economic grouping, the East Asia Economic Caucus, which would exclude white nations such as Australia and New Zealand. Japan is tempted by this Asian option, while fearing it will be accused of abandoning the West in favour of authoritarian "Asian values".

The danger is that these challenges will develop faster than self-analysis. Senior officials see a link between Japan's domestic angst and its search for a world role. Japan has begun to take part in UN operations, but it is still constrained by its past militarism.

The search for an acceptable "apology" is therefore urgent. LDP rightwingers want only an anodyne "peace resolution", fearing an apology will reopen the issue of reparations. School textbooks are beginning to fill in the blank pages of history, but young Japanese still know little about the war. The exhibition at the Tokyo Museum is on the American bombing of Tokyo in 1945; it provides little explanation of what led up to it.

Police step up hunt for sect leaders



Kunimatsu: condition remains serious

Tokyo: Police yesterday renewed a nationwide hunt for the leaders of the extremist cult suspected of plotting mass murder on the Tokyo subway.

No one has been arrested yet directly in connection with the subway attack. But after Thursday's shooting of the national police chief, more followers of the Aum Shinri Kyo sect have been arrested. Takaji Kunimatsu, the head of the National Police Agency who was shot four times outside his condominium building, remained in a serious condition.

Police now know that he had been stalked for days by a man in a black coat and was shot by a gunman who fired with the precision of a professional hit man. Aum Shinri Kyo has denied involvement in the shooting and nerve-gas attack on March 20, which killed 10 people and injured 5,500. *(AP)*



ROBIN MAYES

A UN buffer post between Croatian and Serb front lines near Gospic, in the Krajina enclave, where tensions grew as yesterday's deadline approached

UN scrambles to renew Croatia force

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FEVERISH efforts were underway at the United Nations yesterday to renew the peacekeeping mandate in Croatia before it expired at midnight last night, but the talks remained snagged on the politically-charged issue of a name.

Tension rose along UN-patrolled buffer zones between Croatian government and separatist Serb forces in the countdown to the deadline over the mandate for the 12,000 peacekeepers stationed in Croatia since 1992. The Croatian Government yesterday repeated threats to expel them this spring if "Croatia" did not appear in the title of a renamed, revamped UN mission demanded by Zagreb.

A draft UN Security Council resolution being debated yesterday in New York would change the Croatia mission's name to UN Confidence Restoration Operation (UNCRO).

In a last-minute scramble to overcome Zagreb's objections while not inflaming Croatia's secessionist Serbs in the Krajina region, Security Council members suggested the resolution fudge the question whether the letters "CRO" referred to Confidence Restoration Operation or Croatia.

The debate was underway as British UN soldiers rescued the commander of the Croatian army and 20 of his men from a military convoy trapped in snowdrifts in a blizzard for around 12 hours. General Janko Bobetko, 76, a Second World War partisan fighter, and other men including the commander of the Bosnian Croat militia were stranded on a mountain road in western Bosnia.

Lieutenant-Colonel Barry Hawgood confirmed earlier reports that five of the Croat soldiers had been found dead.



Bobetko: partisan in the Second World War

Libya and Iran 'plan joint missile project'

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

WESTERN intelligence agencies suspect that Libya and Iran have agreed to co-operate in developing long-range ballistic missiles, following a visit to Tripoli by an Iranian Ministry of Defence delegation.

Libya, which is in the very early stages of developing a 600-mile-range ground-to-ground missile called al-Fatah, has been looking for a partner willing to provide missile technology in exchange for dollars. Now, after long negotiations with Iran, it is believed that Tripoli has agreed to meet Tehran's demands for more than $3l million (£20 million) in return for material and technological know-how which Iran has acquired from Western, North Korean and Chinese sources. This could include equipment for a liquid fuel plant.

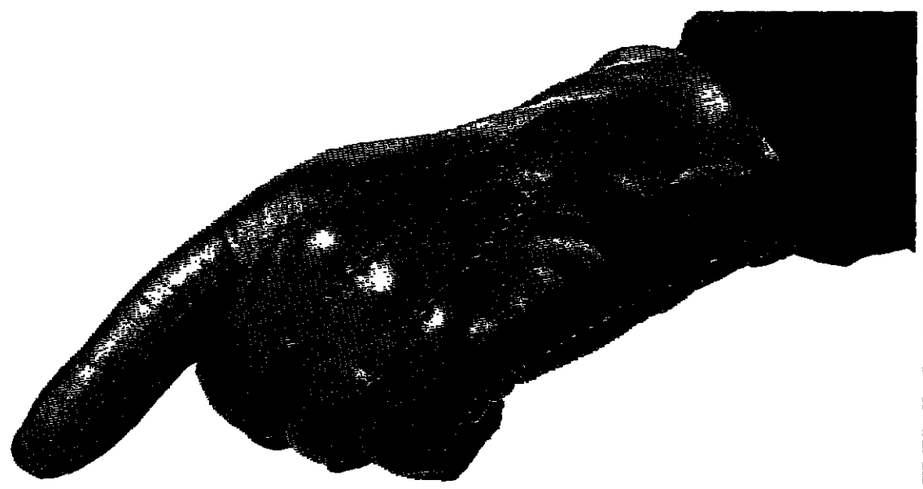
Under the arrangement, it is believed that the two countries will work together to increase the range of the old Soviet-made Scud B missile, as well as developing Libya's al-Fatah weapon system.

Martin Navias, an expert on the proliferation of ballistic missiles at the war studies department of King's College, London, said Libya would be highly vulnerable to a preemptive strike if it attempted to deploy missiles with a 600-mile range.

However, he said there had been co-operation in the past between Iran and Libya. During the Iran-Iraq War, there were allegations, he said, that Libya supplied missiles to Tehran in exchange for chemical weapons which were used by the Libyans against Chad.

Libya has been trying to develop a programme for the independent production of ground-to-ground missiles since the 1980s. Initially the project was based on equipment and know-how received from German companies. However, the boycott imposed on Libya in 1991 after the Lockerbie bombing made it more difficult for these contacts to be maintained. So Tripoli switched its attention to Iran.

☐ **Tripoli:** A Libyan newspaper has announced a $4 billion reward for the capture of former US President Reagan and Margaret Thatcher, the former British Prime Minister, to face trial in Libya. It did not say who would put up the cash. *(AFP)*



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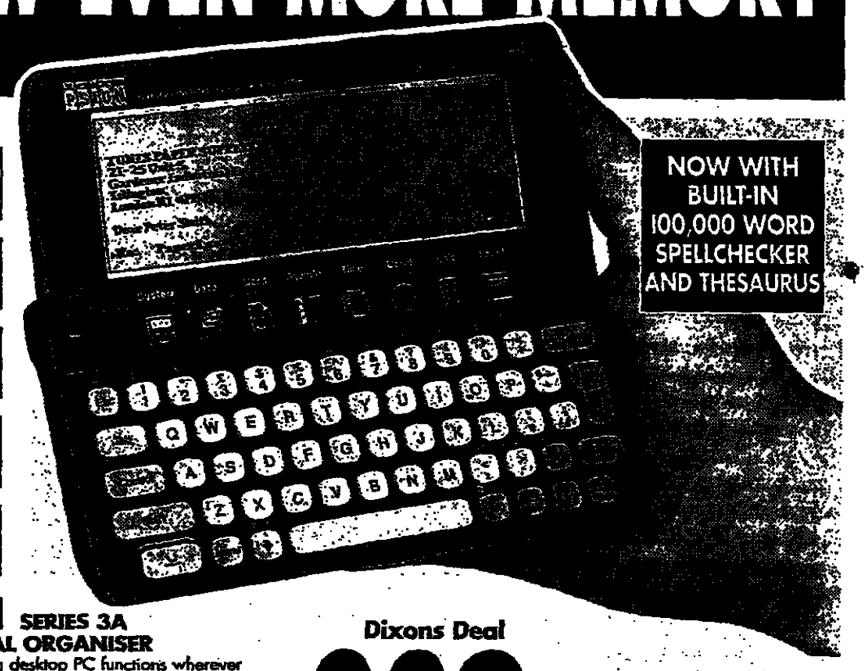
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Clinton calls on Haiti to reject politics of terror

FROM TOM RHODES IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

PRESIDENT CLINTON arrived in Haiti yesterday to confront an increasing tide of violence as he handed over American control of the country to the United Nations, amid allegations that the Haitian Interior Minister was involved in this week's assassination of an opponent of President Aristide.

The murder of Mireille Durocher Bertin, 38, chief of staff to the last military regime, who remained an outspoken critic of the Haitian President's return to power after American-led intervention last September, overshadowed Mr Clinton's attempts to claim Haiti as a triumph of foreign policy and soured ties between the two countries. It was claimed that Brigadier-General Mondesir Beaubrun, the Interior Minister, had masterminded the plot to kill Mrs Bertin in an attempt to undermine Mr Aristide and the US leader's tour.

Nevertheless, Mr Clinton wooed the crowds at the Presidential Palace yesterday. Standing on a podium next to Mr Aristide, and protected by bullet-proof glass, Mr Clinton said: "Citizens of a free and democratic Haiti, *bonjour*." To even louder cheers, he added: "Today we celebrate the restoration of democracy to your country. Never again must it be stolen away."

Referring to the cycle of violence, Mr Clinton called for an end to the vigilante squads' reign of terror, declaring: "No to vengeance, no to violence, yes to reconciliation." Mr Clinton, only the second US President to visit this Caribbean nation — the first was Franklin Roosevelt after the American occupation in 1934 — had earlier embraced Mr Aristide on the tarmac of the airport. In the background, Air Force One dwarfed the runway in an imposing symbol of US domination in Haiti, as Mr Clinton himself loomed large above the diminutive former Roman Catholic priest. Later the two were joined by Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General.



Bertin: her killing has highlighted tensions

Then, Mr Clinton met American troops at their base in Camp Warrior, and was quick to commend the success of Operation Uphold Democracy and the US role in restoring Mr Aristide to power, three years after he was ousted by a military dictatorship.

"The men and women of our armed forces have helped give Haiti a second chance," he said. "Haiti is now democratic, free and more secure than ever before ... now the Haitian people have moved from a dark night of fear to a new dawn of hope." Despite an enthusiastic greeting for the American leader — from Mr Aristide, his own troops and from thousands of singing Haitians, who thronged the capital — many here believe the US mission has done little to improve the lot of the poorest country in the Western hemisphere.

US troops have built some roads and bridges, restored electricity to parts of the country and prevented the worst excesses of violence. But thousands of illegal arms still remain in the hands of those opposed to democracy. Murder and robbery, previously conducted under the mantle of government, are now the staple diet of clandestine gangs both in the cities and in the hinterland.

Aid workers and human rights groups believe the transfer of control from a dwindling US contingent to the UN force of 6,900 heralds a gradual decline in security and a return to the age-old culture of the gun. Nowhere has the political tension been more vividly displayed than in the killing of Mrs Bertin, a lawyer.



Nicholas Ingram, who faces execution next week, in his US army uniform

Prisoner challenges method of execution

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

IN AN attempt to stave off his execution, the British-born man scheduled to die in the electric chair next Thursday, is suing the Georgia state executioner and other prison officials on the grounds that death by electrocution is a form of "cruel and unusual punishment" which should be banned.

Nicholas Ingram, 32, was convicted of murder in 1983 and has spent 12 years awaiting execution. The civil rights suit, due to be filed yesterday on his behalf, argues that death by electrocution is "barbaric" and inhumane, causing "torturous and lingering death" and "burning its victims to a crisp".

Georgia "intends to inflict upon Ingram a method of execution not even acceptable for euthanasia on animals ... by violently and painfully burning him to death in the state's latter-day version of the stake", the suit alleges.

Condemned, Weekend, page 1

Webber admits box office tally 'inflated'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

SIR Andrew Lloyd Webber has admitted that the tally of ticket sales for the Broadway production of *Sunset Boulevard* was artificially inflated while Glenn Close, the star of the show, was on holiday.

The composer and producer described as "idiotic" the decision by Edgar Dobie, head of North American operations for his Really Useful Company, to misrepresent recent box office figures when ticket sales dropped.

Last week the show business newspaper *Variety* reported that the Really Useful Company claimed the show had grossed $724,000 (£450,000) for the week ending March 12, one of two weeks when Close was replaced by an understudy, when the box office receipts were only $569,008.

Mr Dobie issued a statement explaining that many tickets had been passed to various "worthy organisations" at a discount, but had been tallied at face value. He offered to resign over the incident. Rival Broadway producers say that the scandal indicates how heavily the show relies on the star power of Close, who will leave the cast of *Sunset Boulevard* in July to be replaced by Betty Buckley, now starring in the London production.

The article in *Variety* implied that the inaccurate figures had been supplied by The Really Useful Company to give the impression that *Sunset Boulevard* could survive financially without Close.

"Edgar Dobie offered me his resignation in view of the huge embarrassment caused to me by something I knew absolutely nothing about," Sir Andrew said in a statement released on Thursday, adding that he had refused to accept Mr Dobie's resignation.

Sunset Boulevard opened in New York last November with the largest advance ticket sales in Broadway history, but running costs amount to some $550,000 a week. The scandal over misrepresented box-office receipts has prompted speculation that the production may face serious problems when Close, who plays the ageing film star Norma Desmond, leaves the show for good.

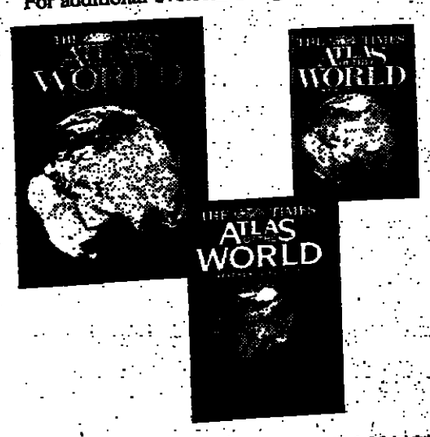
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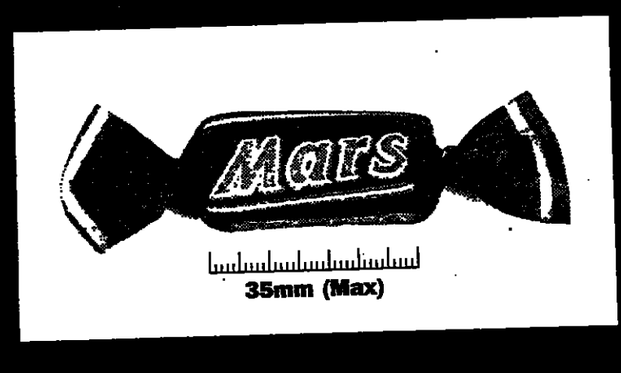
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Kurds 'used in Iraqi chemical weapons tests'

BY JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IRAQI government scientists killed several thousand Kurdish prisoners who were used as human guinea pigs in chemical weapons tests, the Rome newspaper *Il Messaggero* claimed yesterday.

It published what it said were translations of documents written by Iraqi officials in July 1990, giving details of at least 2,400 Kurds used in tests of binary gases codenamed "Operation Binary 24". The documents were part of 17 tonnes of files Kurdish guerrillas say they seized from Iraqi military intelligence headquarters in Kirkuk during the March 1991 Kurdish rebellion. They are being studied by the United Nations Commission of Human Rights in Geneva and were made available to *Il Messaggero* by the Kurdistan Association for Human Rights.

The Iraqi chemical weapons programme began after the 1981 Israeli raid on Iraq's nuclear reactor. From 1983 numerous captured Kurds disappeared: 8,000 were unaccounted for and many died under Iraqi chemical bombs and experiments.

One document, signed by Dr Abdel Jaber Ahmed al-Zubaidi, says: "I am sending you the third group of subversives — there are 850 of them . . . I wish you good work and success in this project in the service of the party and the nation." It says that the guinea pigs were made available after approval was given by General Hatem Abdullah Saqr, a member of the committee supervising Operation Binary 24.

A subsequent, related letter signed by the Chemical Director of Team 1, identified by his initials S. G. A., says: "We have received the third party of arrested subversives. Their overall number is now 2,400 units. The quantity of blood required for the success of Operation Binary 24 necessitates still more units. One must send the fourth party as soon as possible because the general command awaits the definitive results. One must take all the necessary measures: control the drivers and officers who will be charged with the transport, burn all documents in the hands of those responsible and especially the scientific documents, liquidate whoever has information, especially the Kurds." This letter is addressed to Dr H. M. R., the president of the Supervisory Committee Team 1.

Dr al-Zubaidi is the director of Suweira, officially an "agricultural zone" outside Baghdad, where entry is forbidden. During the Iran-Iraq War dead Iraqi soldiers were stored there before being returned to their families. Western experts believe that the area is controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture whose headquarters UN inspectors sought in vain to enter in 1992. The documents were seized by Peshmerga guerrillas commanded by Nawshirawan Mustafa, second in command in the Party of Kurdish Unity. Kirkuk was the security and espionage centre for northern Iraq under the command of Ali Hassan Mejid, a cousin of President Saddam Hussein who became Defence Minister, nicknamed "Ali the Chemist" by the Kurds. The documents were shipped out of Kirkuk in haste and smuggled to the United States before Iraqi forces recaptured Kirkuk on March 20, 1991.

Il Messaggero said that it had received "extremely evasive" replies when it contacted German security officials holding the files of the Stasi, the former East German security service that trained Iraqi intelligence services.

Kurdish guerrilla leaders say they have traced about ten people involved in the experiments, including a chemist, but said they were reticent because they feared retribution.

In northern Iraq yesterday, the Turkish Army pressed its offensive to wipe out guerrilla camps, while soldiers killed 23 Kurdish rebels in a stepped up military campaign in south-east Turkey.

The clashes occurred in Sirnak province on the Iraqi border and in Bitlis province further north, the regional governor's office in Diyarbakir said. In previous action starting on Wednesday, 55 Kurdish rebels were killed in various clashes in the south-east, the office said. No military casualties were reported.

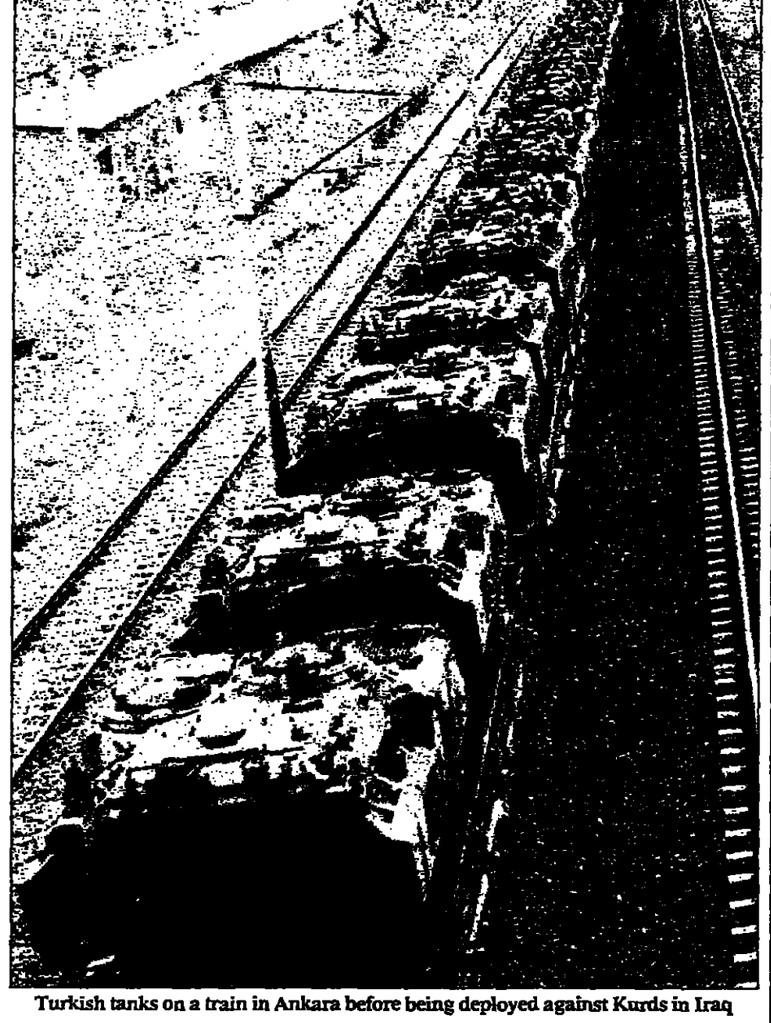
The action indicated that Kurdish rebels were attempting to challenge the army with smaller units inside Turkey in retaliation for the military's operation in northern Iraq. That operation involves a part of northern Iraq controlled by Iraqi Kurds who want independence from Baghdad.

Turkey also put on standby its 20,000 troops in Tunceli province for a possible confrontation with the rebels, believed to number hundreds in the surrounding mountains. Kurdish guerrillas killed 15 soldiers in an ambush in Tunceli two weeks ago.

Turkey sent 35,000 troops up to 27 miles inside northern Iraq last month to wipe out rebel camps. Kurdish rebels have been fighting for autonomy in the southeast since 1984. More than 15,000 people have died.

Western countries have increased pressure on Turkey to withdraw its troops from northern Iraq after mounting allegations of village raids, bombardments and shootings of civilians by the military. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees said in Geneva yesterday that "reliable international sources" reported that 15,000 Iraqi Kurds had been forced to flee their homes.

Ozdem Sanberk, the Deputy Foreign Minister, received the French, German and Spanish Ambassadors along with the European Union's envoy in Ankara yesterday to assure them that the Turkish operation would be called off once its mission was accomplished, a Foreign Ministry statement said. Mr Sanberk said that the operation would not hinder democratisation.



Turkish tanks on a train in Ankara before being deployed against Kurds in Iraq



Saddam: cousin ran testing centre

Dissident forgotten in quest for prosperity

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

WEI JINGSHENG, China's most prominent campaigner for democracy and human rights, said when he emerged from prison towards the end of 1993, after almost 15 years in the Chinese gulag: "People long for change, yet they despair of it, so they give up and go into business."

The statement was prophetic. Both old and younger people questioned recently about Wei seemed more interested in getting a good job and improving living standards.

Wei, 45, who was released on parole early to improve China's chances of bringing the 2000 Olympic Games to Peking, has been nominated by 60 American congressmen for the Nobel Peace Prize, intensely annoying the Chinese Government. Peking insists that he is a "criminal".

Today is the first anniversary of his second disappearance into China's repressive police apparatus. A Foreign Ministry spokesman refused to disclose where Wei is, or even to confirm that he is still alive. "Now we are really worried," his sister, Wei Ling, said. Wei was rearrested for allegedly violating his parole terms by meeting John Shattuck, the US Under Secretary of State for Humanitarian Affairs, in Peking. During his six months of freedom — the only liberty he has enjoyed in 16 years — Wei openly attacked the Government.

One Chinese-speaking foreign diplomat here said: "He is a charismatic man who is regarded as such a danger by the authorities because he is able to bring disparate groups together. The party fears that Wei could become a focal point of opposition and thus challenge its absolute rule." But the envoy did not think many ordinary Chinese were interested in Wei. "They are more interested in trying to improve their lifestyles."

Corsica stadium verdict

Bastia: A French court yesterday jailed six men but acquitted a government official over the collapse in 1992 of a Corsican football stadium stand which killed 17 people and injured more than 2,300.

The judges took two months to reach their verdict over the collapse of a stand at Bastia's Furiani stadium minutes before the kick-off of a French Cup semi-final game against Marseilles.

The judge was booed when he acquitted Henri Hurand, the Paris Government's representative in Bastia at the time. The court sentenced Jean-Marie Boismond, the engineer responsible for building the stand, and Michel Lorenzi, a former vice-president of the Bastia club, to two years' imprisonment. *(Reuter)*

Gunship attack

Jerusalem: Ruda Yassin, a Hezbollah leader in southern Lebanon, was killed when Israeli helicopter gunships attacked his car near the port of Tyre. An Israeli soldier was killed in a separate attack.

Tapie bankrupt

Paris: A court ruled here that Bernard Tapie, 52, the French football boss and politician is bankrupt, clearing the way for him to be stripped of his seats in the French and European parliaments. *(Reuter)*

Spent force

Sanaa: Yemeni authorities have arrested all the country's money-changers, accusing them of damaging the national economy and contributing to the devaluation of the currency. *(AFP)*

Fools' gold

Moscow: Kazakhs fell for a newspaper April Fool's joke by trying to change banknotes with a face value of £1 for £156 each after reading that metal security strips were accidentally made of gold. *(Reuter)*

Sex scandal monk expelled

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN BANGKOK

THOUSANDS of followers, many of them crying hysterically, jammed streets yesterday in Bangkok to see a Thai monk, involved in a sex scandal, expelled from his religious order. Yantra Amm-arobhikkhu shed his dark brown habit and emerged from a Bangkok temple in a green robe.

Phra Yantra spent the morning praying with about 200 monks and more than 2,000 followers who refused to believe the charges that the 44-year-old monk had broken his vows of chastity in red light districts in Australia and New Zealand. Then he went inside the Royal Temple to eat his last supper as a monk. Hundreds of riot police guarded the grounds.

"I never go to temptation place . . . it's a lie," he said. "I don't want to take off my robe. I still would like to help people know Buddhism." The Supreme Council of Buddhist Monks ignored for more than a year charges that Phra Yantra made love to several followers and even fathered a child. But a month ago he was accused of having sex with prostitutes abroad, and on Monday, after a one-day hearing at which he was not allowed to testify, the council ordered him to be expelled.

"I feel regret because it is not fair," he said. "It comes from jealousy, greed, hatred. . . . they think if I grow too popular I can get too much power. Always in my heart I will be a monk. The robe is just the outside. Inside I will still be pure."

Before the scandal, Phra Yantra had two million followers in Thailand and up to 100,000 abroad.

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Tanzania closes border to 100,000 Rwanda refugees

FROM SAM KILEY IN GASHOHO, EASTERN BURUNDI

UP TO 100,000 Rwandan refugees, haunted by fear after their part in the genocide of a million of their countrymen and fleeing Burundi, were stranded on the roadside yesterday after Tanzania closed its border and refused them sanctuary.

Officials from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) desperately tried to persuade the refugees to return to their camps and warned them that they faced "grave security problems" if they continued their journey.

The vanguard of a ten-mile column of refugees was stopped from moving beyond the hamlet of Gashoho, 30 miles from the border with Tanzania by Burundi soldiers.

Gathered in a cold drizzle, they stood in silence as Tina Ghelli stood on the bonnet of her Jeep and begged them to return to the camps set up when they fled Rwanda last year. "Please, please, we understand that you feel insecure in the camps. But you will not be able to go to Tanzania. Go back and we will study other alternatives," she yelled in a reedy voice, offering lorries to transport the refugees back.

But the Hutus, many of whom participated in the killing of Tutsis in their country last year, were gripped with fear after rumours that they may be attacked by Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army and tribal militias.

One refugee said: "We understand that the Tanzanians have closed the border. But why is the Barundi army keeping us here and not allowing us to cross into the next province?"

Miss Ghelli replied: "They fear having so many people in one place in their province." But her response spread a murmur of unease among the Hutus. "They are trying to trap us like animals," one whispered. Mass movements of people in Central Africa are made of such whispers. The UNHCR quickly ordered lorries normally used to carry food to Gashoho to try to take the refugees to their abandoned and muddy camps. But yesterday afternoon there were no takers.

Last Sunday, 12 people were killed in a machinegun and grenade attack on the Majori camp, and it only took rumours of another strike at Magara camp, near Ngozi, to start the exodus.

As one aid worker monitoring the flood of people remarked: "These people know how easy it is to kill, and they are not taking any chances."

Aloise Nhauomo packed his few belongings, a pot, a grass mat, and his plastic sheet, and joined the throng leaving on the four-day trek from Ruvumu, ten miles east of Ngozi. "I would like to be able to walk the 25 kilometres (18 miles) home to Rwanda. But it is not safe there. The Rwandan Patriotic Front harass Hutus, so we must go to Tanzania. The army is killing Hutus in the capital." More than 200,000 Rwandan Hutus lived under blue plastic sheeting in northern Rwanda. Now about half are camped overnight in the rain, beside fires to cook the meagre rations they had saved for their march. A spokesman for the UNHCR said that the first anniversary next week of the assassinations of the presidents of the two Central African states may have been a factor in the exodus. The agency urged Burundi to protect the Hutu refugees, but at the same time appealed to Tanzania to keep its borders open. "The UNHCR is really dismayed by this new move," said Ron Redmond, its spokesman.



Hutus, fearful of being attacked by the Tutsi-dominated Burundian army, flee into the hills outside Bujumbura

Colony accused over boat seizure

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

A DIPLOMATIC row between Peking and Hong Kong over China's seizure of two vessels and their two crew intensified yesterday when the colony's Legislative Council accused its Government of abandoning its citizens.

The Foreign Office summoned Ma Yinzhu, the Chinese Ambassador, to register its disapproval of the "forced detention of Hong Kong people and vessels".

Chinese security launches had intercepted a Hong Kong tug and a barge allegedly carrying smuggled cars on March 18. As they were towing the vessels and their two Hong Kong crew to a Chinese port, they were intercepted by two Hong Kong police launches. The police were allegedly threatened by the Chinese brandishing machineguns.

Despite reassurances by the Government that the issue has been raised at the highest level, members of the council accused it of "betraying the Hong Kong people".

Drought forces up Australia wine cost

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE Australian wine harvest is in, the grapes have been picked and the vines which last year produced 550 million litres of some of the world's most palatable drinking await the pruner.

But this year there is little cause for a celebratory tipple. The Australian wine industry, which has done so much to delight British drinkers, is facing its biggest crisis in a decade. It started with the worst drought in living memory, which caused an acute grape shortage, and was quickly followed by the threat of higher taxes. The Keating administration is considering lifting excise rates on all wine, regardless of whether it is destined for the home or overseas markets.

The higher cost of fruit is expected to mean a 10-15 per cent rise in bottle price over the next two years. The increase will be felt in Britain, which last year consumed 50 million litres of Australian wine worth £87 million. The good news, however, is that the drought, which only began to break in February, is expected to produce some wines of exceptional quality.

Koreans cash in on opium culture

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN SEOUL

NORTH KOREA is encouraging farmers in mountainous regions to grow opium to raise state funds, a defector from the impoverished and isolated communist country said yesterday.

Pak Chul Man, 28, added that many North Koreans have become addicted to the drug they harvest. South Korean intelligence officials have said that North Korean authorities are widely involved in opium, heroin and other drug trafficking in China and Russia. "Sometimes, whole villages become addicted to opium," Mr Pak said. "Because they have no medicine, sick children are given opium. Of course, they become even sicker."

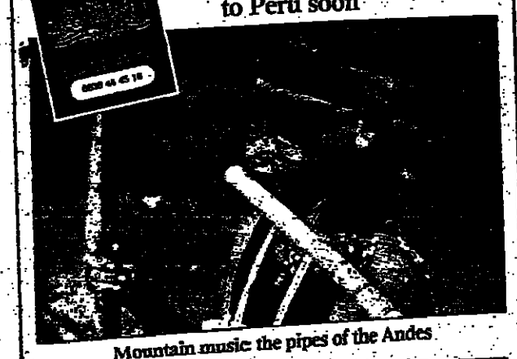
Mr Pak, a supervisor, defected with five other North Koreans after swimming across a river bordering China.

Last year, two North Koreans were caught by Russian agents while attempting to sell almost 19lb of heroin for £150,000. Suspicion of government involvement was raised when the two North Koreans were found to be members of the secret police.

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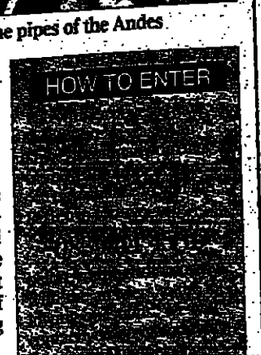
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Whither the Tories' grass roots?

Don't neglect the constituencies,

says **Michael Pinto-Duschinsky**

AMID the almost weekly dramas in the House of Commons, it is tempting for the Prime Minister and his embattled colleagues to ignore the mundane job of improving organisation and membership in the Conservative constituency associations. Yet the result of the next general election and the very survival of the Conservatives as a significant political force will depend almost as much on the state of the local parties as on events at Westminster.

The Government's unpopularity is only one reason for the Tories' current organisational woes. The problem is deeper. Amid political triumph and adversity, the atrophy of the party organisation has continued for the past 15 years.

The disadvantages are beginning to show. In the 1950s — when Conservative associations had five or six times as many members as today — local parties were solid bodies which could usually be relied upon to deselect MPs who refused to toe the party line. Many constituency organisations are now controlled by small groups of activists, making it easier for maverick Tory MPs to keep their support. For example, only one of the eight Euro-rebels, John Wilkinson, appears to have encountered serious trouble from his local party association of Ruislip Northwood.

> 'Smith Square is more than £16 million in the red'

Despite the assumption that modern election campaigns are a battle of television images and soundbites, local campaigning continues to be significant. Doorstep canvassing, posters, postal votes, leaflets and local issues can still determine the outcome in marginal constituencies.

As the Tories start the fourth year of the current Parliament, the number of qualified constituency agents is currently 214 (marginally higher than last autumn but still near a record low). A considerable number of marginals are still without an agent, though Central Office is committed to spending £1.5 million on aid to such seats. The membership campaign announced at last October's party conference is still in its initial stages.

Given the poor state of the local parties today, the Conservatives have little prospect of rebuilding them by the time of the next general election unless the Prime Minister gives it a high and immediate priority. Nor will it be enough to leave the projected membership campaign to Conservative Central Office, which tends to operate like a forgotten army during periods of Tory government.

The Conservative leaders have much to learn from the Republican Party in America in matters of organisation (though they would be ill-advised to copy US new-Right ideologies). By direct-mail fundraising, the Republicans raised some £60 million in 1991-92. At the same time, during the run-up to the British general election, the Tories almost completely omitted direct-mail appeals for small and medium-sized donations.

Since 1992, Conservative Central Office has used an ageing donor file to mount some weak direct-mail efforts. These have raised only modest sums. When expenses are taken into account, income has amounted to considerably less than £500,000.

The failure to develop direct-mail techniques has been accompanied by a broader failure to address the crisis of central party funding. The party leadership seems only dimly aware of what one strategist has called the "nightmare scenario" facing Central Office. In the financial year 1993-94, Central Office made a surplus of £2.1 million but this still left a mighty deficit of £16.5 million. During the financial year just ended, the central party organisation has had to meet the costs of campaigning for the European parliamentary elections. Though income has been about the same as last year (about £14 million), spending has risen. Central Office is likely to break even and may make a small surplus. This means that now, just as the financial demands of the forthcoming general election campaign are starting to become pressing, Smith Square is still more than £16 million in the red.

There will be little chance to clear these debts before the election. The recent review of Central Office staffing has resulted in fewer than ten redundancies. The central establishment of the party will remain at 220 until the general election and there will be the usual inflow of temporary staff in the final year before it.

The "nightmare scenario" for the Conservatives is that they will lose the election burdened by their existing debts. Then, under new political funding rules introduced by a Labour Government, they will find it impossible to clear them.

Despite this danger, Mr Major has been deterred by adverse publicity from taking an active part in the party treasurers' efforts to win donations. At least one young member of the Government has been reading Dangerfield's study of *The Strange Death of Liberal England* — the sudden Liberal fall after its victories in 1906 and 1910: "Could we be facing the Strange Death of Conservative England?" he wonders.

As Mr Major prepares for the Tories' Central Council meeting in Birmingham, he might ask himself the same question.





Adrift in a web of words

Cyberspace is vast and daunting, but its raw material is its saving grace

Simon Jenkins

I have just plugged into the world. I have taken the Coleridge shilling to Xanadu. I have crossed the sacred river and entered caverns measureless to man. I have seen the damsel with the dulcimer and she gave me the fruit of the tree of knowledge. But it was no tree. It was the planet earth. Tree and planet are one. The world is that of cyberspace.

This and much more nonsense came to mind as I sat this week in a café across the road from Harvard Square in Cambridge, Massachussetts. The café contains a normal bar, a coffee machine, a bookstall and young waiters in grey T-shirts. On the table in front of me is not a knife, fork and spoon but a colour screen, keyboard and mousepad. The waiter brings refreshments. But drinks are not the point, nor is there much room for them on the table. For this is CyberCafé. I am among the technosmiths of cyberspace. I have come, for the cost of a cup of coffee plus $5, to "surf the Web".

Off we go. We start with the home page, a domestic solar system of coloured planets with access to such mundane data as the menu or what's on in Boston. We soon leave that far behind. We clock into the superhighway known as the World Wide Web, now known as the "hottest thing in cyberspace". Suddenly we are far from Harvard Square, cruising past the news headlines, the latest movie clips and the sound of the Clintons' cat meowing. We are out into a realm of total information and interaction.

With the aid of Web browsers of astonishing power we surf the hyperlinks, leaping across continents from the Book of Kells in full colour to a CIA Africa report to an on-going debate on symbolism in Woody Allen's movies. The World Wide Web is the black hole of the Internet. Into it infinite quantities of information are daily sucked and their mass compressed a trillion times.

We follow them mesmerised, like Bilbo Baggins attended by tribes of Hobbits to guide us on our way. These denizens of cyberspace are variously named fingers, Veronicas, newsgrazers, navigators or the greatest Web browser of them all, Mosaic. Each is blessed with its own Secret of the Web — and each invented by a tycoon of the Web cloned to Microsoft's Bill Gates. It can call up a picture, a video, a speech, a conversation. It can click into a world of coded hypertext and veer off into a byway populated by thousands of new "Web servers", companies and individuals with their own "sites", waiting silently for our call. It can introduce me to more than 10,000 "meet and greet" newsgroups, or discussions, each engaged in an on-line debate about the latest treatment for diabetes or the love life of a pop star. Or I can turn to the friendly gophers. These animals surf the net like Ariel in a fraction of a nanosecond, bringing back from the frontiers of gopherspace news of the Australian traffic laws or recipes for pizza or even Simon Jenkins, whatever takes my fancy.

This is no game. "You are about to take in your own hands," declares the motto of the Cybersmiths, "one of the most powerful tools ever invented." Not for nothing are software corporations pouring money into the Internet. They claim that cyberspace is "probably the fastest growing industry in history". They claim six million host computers in America alone, with others in 160 countries, and 40 million users. The money is made by the "providers" who sell users the software entry ramps and some databases that require a code for access. You can surf for no more than the cost of a local phone call. This business is expanding by 10 per cent a month. Not a year but a month.

The fastest growing highway, the World Wide Web, is no mere information retrieval system. It embraces an information community, the old radio hams gone cybernetic. It can handle sound and pictures almost to television quality. It has some 16,000 entry sites, many still "under construction" but some with hundreds of pages each. One is Time-Warner's teasers for their weekly magazines and for new fiction, accessed by a million readers a week. Another is a virtual reality dissection of a frog. As I drifted through the Web's byways I stumbled over an exhibition of Bodleian manuscripts, the photographs from the Hubble space telescope and the entire output of the Oregon Congress.

Like many information innovations — not least newspapers — the Web gained its first impetus as a boon to student radicalism: "clever postgrads with too much time on their hands" sneer the cult magazines. It is currently being used to arouse left-wing opposition to the Republican "Contract with America". Some 700 campus subscribers are using on-line discussion groups to project messages down the highways. But the rest of the argument can do the same. Legal action can be summoned up, processed and dispatched by e-mail, its gophers racing back and forth gathering documents and minimising error. One day real time voting on congressional bills may be possible. Who needs elected representatives when the people vote for themselves?

The Internet could perfect all markets, political, academic, commercial. Selling is transformed. Where is the world's cheapest VCR or Toyota or plane ticket or hernia operation, to be ordered at the click of a mouse? Morning-after contraceptive advice is available worldwide on the Web via its own "http://" prefix, complete with lists of co-operative doctors. A deaf person wanting the latest research, or to talk with other deaf people worldwide, can access the relevant newsgroup. Cancer patients can exchange symptoms — and find doctors interrupting them with advice and warning.

The horrors of all this are much-rehearsed: e-mail addresses pestered with sex fiends, paedophiles using newsgroups to entice children, racists, quack doctors and shady stockbrokers all are part of the demonology of cyberspace. Much Web activity is for lost souls, for addicts, alcoholics and the lonely. There is even a newsgroup for those addicted to the Internet. Though corporate "sites" build complex "firewalls" to block hackers, the system is not for secrets. The essence of the Web is its openness. The hyperbole of enthusiasts is true. As *PC Magazine* says: "There is no one to stop you, no one to second-guess you, no one to censor you or interfere with your ability to reach out and touch millions of like-minded citizens of the net." Censorship has to take place in the home by the user, and nowhere else.

I must confess to having been awestruck. For all the games, the dross and the junk, the information suddenly available over a simple cup of coffee is staggering. I could summon up not just Dante's *Divine Comedy* but every known critical commentary on it. Of course such devastating overload can crush the imagination. Random bursts of facts can swamp reflective judgment. The G-force of the cybercruiser can wipe the mind clean of wisdom and render us bemused zombies. But I refuse to be Ruskin deploring the train or Carlyle the photograph. If an African doctor can save a life by cruising the Tropical Diseases Library in Boston through the HealthNet the revolution gets my vote.

Cyberspace has no nervous system. It is communication beyond governments and beyond control. It is pure electronic language, freed from the human frame or the boundaries of nations. Yet it is inanimate, serendipitous, unlike the telephone. It can go where no phone could go, deep into the files of Nasa or out to the corners of the globe, searching out information beyond the inhibitions of human custodians: "Who are you and why do you want to know?" Hence its nickname, the Great Equaliser.

Yet the most uplifting aspect of this proxy space travel is the medium. Its raw material is good old-fashioned words, words hacked by the human brain into grammatical sentences. Internet has its jargon, its codes and protocols. Whole chapters of its manuals are incomprehensible. But at its heart lies the urge to exchange not spoken but written English. After decades of hearing that the written word is dead, I find letters, fonts, grammar and imagery placed in sequence after the manner of Caxton and Gutenburg. The surfer must know how to write. The printed word is revived as vehicle for the ultimate exercise in human communication. The world is sending itself letters again.

The end of Oxford as we know it

Robert Stevens fears the demise of the college tutorial

Oxford, being a narcissistic university, enjoys the interest that the press takes in it. However, what may be the most important change in Oxford, — in some ways since the momentous Royal Commission in the 1870s — has significantly gone unreported, outside *The Times*.

This is in some ways understandable. One suspects many of those within the university do not understand the long-term importance of the vote last week on the so-called promotions document. It all sounds so innocuous. Some of its proponents, however, are now privately boasting that it is the beginning of the end of Oxford as an undergraduate institution. As news, that may be quite significant.

No doubt the national interest may be served by the demise of Oxford as an undergraduate institution. After all, it will make significantly more attractive the undergraduate programmes at many of the other well-established universities and a better balance between Oxbridge and those universities may well be desirable from the national point of view. In Oxford the decline of undergraduate studies will enable more resources to be pumped into research: and the Government seems to think unbridled research is a "good" at the moment. It does, however, seem a great pity that Oxford's change of course was accomplished so silently.

What then happened? The promotions document looks to be a modest proposal that the career grade at Oxford should now be either the readership or the professorship. The proposal also calls for the maintenance of the same amount of college teaching as at the moment. The changes in title are justified on the grounds that Oxford will now get even more research money because dons will be able to wave around their readership or professorship and, importantly, insecure dons who go off to conferences will be able to use their professorship title. At a more serious level it may just enable Oxford to resist raids by other universities offering chairs.

The long-term import, however, is very different. When one stops to think that 80 per cent of Oxford dons will at some point become readers or professors, it means that at most 20 per cent will see their bases primarily in the colleges. From a selfish point of view, one is entitled to be concerned about who will man the colleges. Who would be a senior tutor, who would be a dean, who would be a bursar? Only the failures? All decisions on tenure and promotions will now be focused on departments. Thus the professional life of dons will focus around the departments.

It is true that the rules for promotion will purport to take teaching into account. Sadly, the efforts to evaluate teaching in any scientific way are at best hazardous and at worst counter-productive. Oxford proponents understand full well that within the decade it is the pile of publications and not commitment to the tutorial method that is going to count. Those with a commitment to teaching in the colleges will be forced to commit themselves to a life outside the mainstream of Oxford.

The official answer to this is that of course there is a commitment to maintaining the level of teaching in colleges in the promotion document. The truth is, the proposed system cannot survive more than three to five years. While an increasing number of fellows will have their title of professor or reader, they will have a salary that is not comparable with "real" professors or readers. Much more importantly, however, they will have a teaching load which may be significantly higher. There will have to be a reshuffling of the pack and all those who have the titles of reader and professor will either cease to engage in college teaching or be substantially "released" from it. College teaching is demanding, but if status goes with the professorship or the readership and a less demanding teaching life, dons are human enough to remove themselves from the heavy college responsibilities and from undergraduate teaching and to put themselves on the professorship/readership track.

The change is not all bad: it may be good for other universities, it may help the taxpayer since, surely, Oxford cannot justify the college fee (which the individual colleges receive for supporting the tutorial system) with the implications of this change of direction. The sad thing is that Oxford will be destined to be an American-type research university, with undergraduate teaching done primarily by graduate students.

The particularly sad thing is, however, with England's relative decline economically, Oxford cannot hope to compete with the best American and continental research universities. Oxford will thus not only lose its reputation for having trained the nation's leaders, but its international reputation of being a fine research university with an unparalleled commitment to teaching may well evaporate.

Robert Stevens is Master of Pembroke College, Oxford

Peerless pigs

A DESPERATE squeal has gone out from pig fanciers for patronage. Fine swine are slipping down the social scale and there are fears that breeds will die out for lack of aristocratic support.

This month's issue of *The Ark*, the bible for breeders of rare farm animals, warns that the landed gentry have turned their backs on pedigree pigs of old. "Once there was a strong link between the aristocracy and swine," it snuffles. "That link has now been stretched to near breaking point."

Valiantly holding the fort are such *aficionados* as Lord Lichfield, the Duchess of Devonshire and Lord Runcie, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, all of whom own pigs. But the numbers are still dwindling, warns Richard Lutwyche, secretary of the Society of Gloucestershire Old Spots, a breed which holds court at Gatcombe Park, the home of the Princess Royal.

In his article, Lutwyche cites P.G. Wodehouse's pig, Empress of Blandings, and her devoted owner Lord Emsworth. "How valuable the Empress was in supplying comfort and succour in hours of need," he says.

He adds that the difficulties faced by some members of the Royal Family could be directly linked to their interest in pigs. "That the Princess Royal attracts most esteem and least criticism can be credited to Her Royal Highness's sensible attitude in maintaining a small herd of Gloucestershire Old Spots." He suggests that the Prince of Wales, rather than confessing to Jonathan Dimbleby, should have confided in pigs which "will take your confidences to the grave".

The Duchess of Devonshire seems only to agree. "It's too sad that their numbers are dwindling. They are by far the most attractive of farm animals. They really are very intelligent."



Wanted: aristocrats for pigs

DIARY

Blade runner

THERE IS a theory in the Oxford camp that the key to victory today in the 141st Boat Race lies not so much in the strokes of the oarsmen as in the quality of the coaches' launch that follows them. Three years ago, *Bosporos*, the launch that had followed the crew since 1948, was worn out and a temporary replacement was hired — since when Oxford have lost.

But now *Bosporos* is back and hopes are high. John Bockstoce, a former president of the boat club and one of the winners of the race in 1967, has coughed up £50,000 for a new fibreglass launch. "It's one of the fastest boats on the river," says Richard Fishlock of the Oxford University Boat Club. "But we've called it *Bosporos*, which is Greek for Oxford and the same as the old boat. We hope it will be a similarly lucky talisman."

● *With luck, the Queen will catch the Boat Race on television today — but no thanks to* The Badminton Diary, *which holds her Royal Warrant as well as that of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and the Prince and Princess of Wales. A misprint has the Boat Race today happening last week on March 25.*

Hot stuff

AN UNUSUALLY relaxed Edwina Currie mingled with fellow MPs and peers at the Commons reception on Thursday night for the launch of EMI Records' *Great Parliamentary Speeches*, a splendid anthology of historical — and hysterical — exchanges. "I've just finished the first draft of my new book," chuckled the elegant MP. And the sequel to her best-seller, *A Parliamentary Affair*, looks certain to steam up the spectacles of her older colleagues.

Her fictional MP, Elaine Stalker, who resembles la Currie in many respects, will, she tells me, be promoted to the post of Health Minister. But, like Currie, Stalker will eventually be forced to resign. Over dodgy eggs? "Certainly not!" huffed the real-life former health minister.

Right track

BRIAN MAWHINNEY may have exorcised a curse when he arrived for dinner at York's National Railway Museum on Thursday night aboard a replica of George Stephenson's *Rocket*.

The Transport Secretary is the first minister to venture onto the famous engine since 1830, when the original collided with William Huskisson, an MP and former President of the Board of Trade, during its inaugural run. Huskisson lay in agony for nine hours before he died.

Model role

CLAD in the briefest of Dolce & Gabbana's slips on Thursday while attending the launch party for the designers' new Sloane Street shop, the wafer-thin model Laura Bailey revealed the extent of Richard Gere's influence on her life.

"I want to be an actress," she said. "I'm off to New York for screen tests. But I don't want to play model parts — I'd even wear a bag over my head if need be." Instead, the Oxford don's daughter said she has her eyes on playing characters such as Tess of the d'Urbervilles. "And just by chance I sat next to Roman Polanski at a dinner recently. But I'm not saying anything just yet."



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MIDDLE BRITONS

The Tories claim to represent the quiet majority

Since Aristotle, wise conservatives have realised the importance of the middle classes to their cause, those whom the philosopher referred to as "the steadiest element". The Conservative Central Council in Birmingham, which opened yesterday, has been presented as the launch of a campaign to reclaim "middle Britain". The Tories know that, without solid support from the moderately prosperous majority, they stand no chance of winning the next general election. They must win back those middle class voters who find Tony Blair an appealing and apparently safe prospective Prime Minister.

In 1974, Lord Hailsham wrote that he was "passionately a defender of the middle class". In spite of John Major's fascination with the "classless society", most Tories would say the same today. Yet the concerns of the middling sort have changed in the last two decades. The inhabitants of middle Britain are more disillusioned than ever with the political process at Westminster and the antics of their representatives. They worry about crime and social breakdown, not as abstract issues of injustice, but as problems which affect and endanger them. Above all, a sense of economic insecurity casts a lengthening shadow over middle Britain. A growing number of its citizens are part of, or will soon be part of, what Peter Drucker calls the "network society", employed contractually by a series of employers rather than for life by one. Their economic anxiety is structural rather than recessionary.

Senior Conservatives went out their way yesterday to woo this section of the electorate. Jeremy Hanley, the embattled party chairman, predicted that when "middle Britain enters the polling booths, it will be for Conservative values". The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, warned that "when Blair talks about fairness — Middle England reach for your wallet". The Opposition's conversion to many Tory policies was only skin-deep, they claimed.

Probing Labour on its European policy should reap dividends. Equally, Mr Clarke was right to attack the Opposition's failure to pronounce on key economic issues. High as Labour is riding in the polls, it has yet to persuade the public of its reliability as a party of economic management. The Conservative leadership, though hardly steady, has looked somewhat more pugnacious this week.

In Mr Hanley's words, Mr Blair is a "Trojan horse" whose success would reward the trade unions, the politically correct lobby and the "apostles of the politics of envy". Invective against Labour is no longer enough to unite middle Britain beneath the Conservative banner. For now, it is the Labour leader's word against that of the Tories, and there is every sign that the voters see him as essentially trustworthy.

The reassuring prospect of better things to come is needed. The Tories still give the impression of a party which has completed its historic missions and is intellectually exhausted. One of the difficulties facing the Prime Minister is that the areas of policy in which has made the greatest impact — Ulster and public service reform — are notoriously unglamorous. The Citizen's Charter and the Anglo-Irish joint framework document are not the stuff of saloon bar debate.

Yet the Tories have other strengths upon which to capitalise. Though Michael Howard has many detractors, the approach to law and order which he outlined in Birmingham yesterday is one with which most people in middle Britain would sympathise. As our Education Correspondent reports today, Tory policies in the classroom appear to have encouraged a return to traditional teaching methods. Ministers must seek to persuade the public not only that the Tory revolution has been effective but also that it must continue. This is partly a matter of presentation. But, as countless grassroots workers warned the Tory hierarchy yesterday, it will also require passionate leadership and rigorously enforced party unity. Whenever the election is held, Middle Britain will not make its decision lightly.

METHOD IN HIS MADNESS

Lunacy is a humanising study as well as great box office

Nigel Hawthorne's George III in *The Madness of King George* has been acclaimed as one of those rare performances which seem to transcend the limits of dramatic art. His nightgown flapping in the chill dawn air, the stricken monarch flees from his court, preferring to commune, Lear-like, with the elements. The fact that his apparent lunacy was a symptom of prophyria, now readily curable, only adds poignancy to his plight.

George III was, perhaps, unlucky to live in an age when mental illnesses were virtually untreatable, and visits to Bedlam a popular occupation for the idle and curious. But the history of madness — an academic growth industry ever since Michel Foucault's *Histoire de la Folie* was published in 1961 — is chiefly the history of how the sane have regarded the insane. George III's tragedy is not unique. There is usually political method in the diagnosis of madness: it is frequently a convenient means of disposing of the inconvenient.

The tradition that King Henry VI, for example, was mad arose from the Yorkists' need to justify first his deposition and later his murder. In her new book *The Wars of the Roses*, the historian Alison Weir states categorically that, even after his long captivity in the Tower, Henry "was by no means deranged". One might add that few saner kings have bequeathed such lasting glories as the colleges of Eton and King's.

Another Shakespearean subject, King John, was regarded by some of his contemporaries as close to insanity; indeed, his brother Richard I and father Henry II were likewise pathological in their apoplectic rages, and the whole Plantagenet dynasty was suspected of being a devil's brood. Madness in great ones has always excited the suspicion of infernal influence.

Very few rulers who were regarded as mad have died in their beds. Ludwig II of Bavaria, Wagner's devoted patron and the builder of castles which still astonish the visitor with their beauty, was treated as mad mainly for reasons of state: his projects were bankrupting the Bavarian exchequer, and he had to be stopped. His mysterious drowning together with his physician could have been suicide, murder or accident. Ludwig's homosexuality, a term which in the late 19th century was new and treated as a curable but pathological condition, would alone have been enough to warrant his removal from the throne. Yet monarchs of an earlier age who were accused of it, such as Edward II or James I, were not treated as mad, nor even necessarily as bad. (The evidence for Edward II's homosexuality, incidentally, is as weak as that for the madness of Henry VI.)

Madness seems a more probable explanation for the strange conduct of various Roman emperors, from Nero to Caligula, but the lack of reliable data must render any modern diagnosis speculative. Their modern counterparts — Hitler, Stalin, Mao — all displayed symptoms of paranoia and dementia, especially at the end of their lives. So, it may be objected, have many good rulers. But there is a gulf between the tyrant's psychopathic indifference to the sufferings of others, and the eccentricities of a Cromwell or a Churchill. Though it is on the whole preferable to be governed by the sane, a hint of madness is sometimes the price of inspired leadership.

THAT FAT YELLOW BOOK

Has cricket's bible blotted its scorecard?

Ours is a society inured to error and inaccuracy, from the weatherman's frequent goofs to the politicians' poppycock, from bank statements that do not add up to phone bills that add up to too much. Thus we cling passionately to those few things left to us in which we can repose our blindest trust. *Wisden*, the fat yellow book bulging with cricket's statistics, is one such object of our faith. But, as we report today on page 40, the venerable pillar has been shown to have cracks: all is not as it seems under the dustjacket of cricket's bible.

Cricket has few features more compelling than the rich pedantry of its statistics. *Wisden*, treasured even by many who have never played the game, is proof of this. Yet cricket-lovers are nothing if not disputatious spirits. Members of the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians, described by sceptics as the cricketing equivalent of train-spotters in anoraks, have uncovered a degree of statistical inaccuracy in editions before 1970, which they set at about 70 per cent of all *Wisden* scorecards. One can almost hear the glug of slashed wrists as the game's faithful respond in the manner of betrayed lovers.

Matthew Engel, the almanack's editor since 1993, has given the anoraked crusaders the sort of jesuitical reply of which even Sir Robert Armstrong would have been proud: "The historical discrepancy between *Wisden* and the official scores was the discrepancy between the local reporters' version and the official scores." Ah, yes, we see his point. *Wisden* is here hoist — delightfully — with its own pedantic petard. So carefully has the almanack tended its image since its introduction 131 years ago that it has come to be associated, by all who know cricket, with meticulousness and discipline. Its famous understated prose style has served only to enhance the impression of classical craftsmanship.

These revelations of inaccuracy should not bring the souring of our admiration for Mr Engel's almanack. They should, instead, produce in us a little *frisson* each time we lay its heavy weight on our lap and open its pages: were Brown's bowling figures for the Lancashire Under-19s against Durham really 25.4-9-43-1? Or were they, heaven forbid, 25.3-9-43-1? Did the West Indian Board President's XI lose its third wicket against Pakistan at Georgetown with the score at 186 or, dare one even think it, 187?

Even if two out of every three scorecards contain an unresolved mystery, there can be no doubt about the game's milestones. Jim Laker did take 19 for 90 against the Australians at Old Trafford, and Brian Lara did once score 375. There is still no better place to read about such things than *Wisden*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Blame for transfer of injured patient

From Mr John R. Bartlett and others

Sir, The publicity surrounding the 200-mile transfer of a head-injured patient from Kent to Leeds for intensive care in a neurosurgical unit (reports, March 10, 30; letters, March 14, 31) has failed to draw attention to the special problem of Kent and southeast London.

The population of this area, a little over three million, is served by the Brook and Maudsley neurosurgical units, in Greenwich and Camberwell respectively. There are two neurosurgical intensive-care beds at the Brook, but none at the Maudsley: that is to say, two beds for three million people. On average, for populations of three million elsewhere in the UK, seven intensive-care beds are occupied by patients with neurosurgical disorders at any one time.

Between April 1992 and April 1993 the Brook neurosurgical unit was closed to admissions requiring intensive-care beds for 112 days. On seven days no alternative cover was identified in the four Thames regions, serving some 15 million people. A regrettable event such as the 200-mile transfer was inevitable.

Planning blight has hampered the proper provision and development of the neurosurgical services for Kent and southeast London for the past 20 years. To make one consultant the scapegoat for administrative and political failure (report, March 30) is a gross injustice.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN R. BARTLETT,
RICHARD W. GULLAN,
MICHAEL M. SHARR
(Consultant neurosurgeons),
LORICE SONGHURST
(Consultant in neuroanaesthesia and intensive care),
South East Thames Regional Neurosurgical Unit,
Brook General Hospital,
Shooters Hill Road, SE18.
March 31.

From Professor Neil Kessel

Sir, It is rich to read (report, March 30) of a consultant being censured for not coming into hospital to perform what was squarely a management task, namely finding a suitable available bed for a patient. Rich, but unfortunately not rare.

As many a junior doctor searching for a suitable bed in the early hours of the morning knows, it is next to impossible to get duty managers to come into hospital to do their job. And, should something go amiss, some duty managers seem to prefer to put a doctor on the spot to being on the spot themselves.

Did the hospital inquiry into the incident examine what part management played, or failed to play? Where was the relevant manager? Was he telephoned at 2.17am? Did he come in? Are we going to be told?

Yours faithfully,
NEIL KESSEL,
24 Lees Road,
Bramhall, Stockport, Cheshire.

Courts martial

From the Judge Advocate General

Sir, There are two serious errors in your report of March 29 about military courts.

You state that "courts martial often try serious criminal cases abroad where no British judge or counsel is available". The system is in fact designed to ensure that a British judge attends each court martial involving serious charges, either in the United Kingdom or abroad. My office supplies a civilian judge advocate to officiate at such trials; indeed, in order to meet this obligation, we maintain a permanent office in Germany where there is the greatest present concentration of British troops abroad.

Any soldier or airman charged with a serious offence who is tried either abroad or in this country is invariably represented by a solicitor or a barrister. There is an extensive legal aid scheme for the Forces.

You also report that Alexander Findlay, the Scots Guardsman who is challenging before the European Court of Human Rights his conviction on a charge of taking two soldiers hostage in Northern Ireland, was convicted "despite medical evidence of a nervous breakdown". In point of fact he pleaded guilty at his court martial.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES RANT,
Judge Advocate General,
22 Kingsway, WC2.

Delayed transmission

From Professor Harry McWilliam

Sir, Mrs Rice's letter (March 30) reporting her difficulty in obtaining *The Times* in a remote part of Wales reminded me of an experience of my own some years ago in a not very remote part of Ireland. To my request for a copy of the paper, the newsagent asked: "Is is today's or yesterday's *Times* you would be wanting?" "Today's please", I brightly replied. "Ah, sure", came the answer, "we wouldn't be having that till tomorrow".

Yours sincerely,
HARRY McWILLIAM,
Lewins, Lewins Road,
Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire.

Weekend Money letters, page 31

Bias and belligerence on the air?

From Mr David Blunkett, MP for Sheffield Brightside (Labour)

Sir, May I add a rider to your letters of March 29 on the allegations of bias being made against the BBC.

On March 27, in your later editions, you reported the managing director of BBC news and current affairs as saying that John Humphrys should have pulled out of chairing the public debate on education on March 21 (in which I participated) when it became apparent that no Conservatives were going to take part. This is a very worrying suggestion.

The notion that senior presenters and political journalists cannot act in an impartial role in situations of this kind is bizarre. Its consequence would be to bar anyone from being able to act in a professional role every time the Conservatives choose to pull out of an event or refuse to take part in it.

The words used by Jonathan Aitken, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, in his attack last weekend on the BBC seem to mirror the kind of bullying tactics adopted by Norman Tebbit and other Conservative figures prior to previous general elections. Unfortunately these tactics were seen by many to be all too effective in ensuring a review within the BBC of their attitude to Conservative politicians.

Are we to assume that presenters can only participate in an impartial manner in facilitating a democratic lobby when they receive the imprimatur of the Government? If so, this must be of concern to us in a democratic country.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BLUNKETT
(Shadow Secretary of State for Education),
House of Commons.
March 29.

From Mr Eric Dehn

Sir, In mellowing old age I find courtesy and consensus far more civilised than everlasting confrontation. How satisfying to find party politics playing practically no part in a united Irish policy, for instance.

Alas, in Parliament or in the media points seemingly need to be scored or box-office ratings upheld. In the 1960s, before the start of a discussion on American TV on "socialized medicine", the producer said to me: "I want this to be an eyeball to eyeball confrontation" — whereupon a 6ft 5in spokesman was introduced. Being "vertically challenged", I found it difficult to accede.

Interviewers have a difficult task in seeking both to keep skilled politicians to the point ("Before I answer that question I would just like to say ...") and to terminate diplomatically a verbose interviewee before the pips sound. The most agonising such moment that I recall was in an interview with a high-powered but genial American official from Nato during an Iron Curtain crisis: "There's only a minute left, Minister. I would like to ask you a final question: in your opinion, will there or will there not be a third world war?" Pause. "I dunno".

How to fill a totally unacceptable silence of 59 seconds ...?

Yours sincerely,
ERIC DEHN,
5 Trelawney Road,
Bristol, Avon.

From Lord Wyatt of Weeford

Sir, David and Jonathan Dimbleby claim (letter, March 30) that I could not have known that their father was a Tory. If they read page 219 of my book, *Confessions of an Optimist*, they will see that their father himself recounted to me a conversation he had with Field Marshal Lord Montgomery in which Richard had deprecated my being a socialist.

It was quite obvious he was a Tory and spoke to me freely, and to others, of his views, of which he was not ashamed. I did not write that he told me "how he voted", but I would have been surprised to learn he had voted either Labour, Liberal or Communist.

Yours faithfully,
WOODROW WYATT,
House of Lords.
March 30.

From Dr Colin King

Sir, Mr Ian Curteis (letter, March 30) seemed somewhat partial himself when quoting from the 1977 Annan Committee report on the Future of Broadcasting, p269. What the report says later is:

Due impartiality should not be a shield behind which the broadcasters shelter but a pass-key to open up public affairs.

Using the pass-key is precisely what John Humphrys and Jeremy Paxman do so professionally on our behalf as the television tribunes of the people. Long may they continue to do so.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN KING
(Lecturer in Media Studies),
University of Exeter,
School of Education,
Heavitree Road, Exeter, Devon.

Age when a child can tell it's wrong

From Dr Roger Burland

Sir, I would like to underline the opinion of the law lords (report, March 17) that the age of criminal responsibility should be reviewed by Parliament. As a psychologist and proprietor for the past 30 years of a school for boys with emotional and behavioural difficulties, I am firmly of the opinion that children as young as eight and often younger know right from wrong, and from ten certainly know what is a criminal offence.

The present legislation in my view actually encourages criminal acts amongst the young. Often children choose to commit an offence because they well know the "law" that no one can really do anything if they are found out.

Obviously consideration should be given to the individual child, but it should be for defence lawyers to prove that a child cannot comprehend whether its actions were right or wrong.

There has been much talk about providing more secure units and lowering the age for admission to 12. I have experienced children younger than this who are completely amoral and a danger to themselves and society. I feel that decisions on admission should be based on particular circumstances rather than age.

A possible help might be to allow certain registered homes and schools to apply temporary security when children commit crimes, either in anger, or to survive if they have absconded. With the right care and therapy this sort of behaviour will pass, but the Children Act, in its concern for the principle of liberty has, in some ways, made protecting these children more difficult. Such measures would of course need rigorous procedures to prevent abuse.

Traditional punishment is proven not to change behaviour; but, on the other hand, not punishing can promote and reinforce inappropriate behaviours. A combination of temporary security, counselling and therapy could help prevent criminal activity. At the same time the courts' ability to give appropriate punishments to children would act as a deterrent.

The real work would be in improving these children's self-esteem, teaching them social skills, reinforcing the positive in them and attempting to introduce them to alternative ways of feeling good by such means as sports coaching and academic help.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. BURLAND,
Chelfham Mill School,
Barnstaple, North Devon.

Time for teaching

From Mrs D. Harris

Sir, Why is it that whenever people wish to complain about education they either deride the state of the building (worse than "a local betting shop" — Mrs Akpan's letter, March 28) or bleat about "resources" or lack of them?

How is it that in large parts of Africa children are still sitting O levels, taught in mud huts with corrugated iron roofs, an examination now abandoned in England as too difficult for our children?

Initially all a young child needs to master the three Rs is an imaginative and resourceful teacher, of whom I am sure we have thousands. Please — place a bucket under the drip, if there is one, and teach.

Yours faithfully,
SARAH HARRIS,
Oak House, Baughurst,
Basingstoke, Hampshire.
March 29.

From Mr E. G. Handley

Sir, I suggest that the answer to today's whinge by Mrs Akpan is that most schools are nationalised and unionised, while the betting shops are free enterprise.

Yours faithfully,
E. G. HANDLEY,
Basildon Cottage,
Lower Basildon, Berkshire.
March 28.

Instant screening

From Mrs Carola Law

Sir, When it comes to preserving one's own health, it is not right to say that, "for most people, ignorance is bliss" in cases where a condition cannot be ameliorated by treatment (Dr G. H. Fowler's letter, March 18).

To decry as "potentially harmful" the existence of our readily accessible diagnostic facilities, which enable the public, when concerned about their health, to find out, free of charge if need be, to what extent their fears are justified, is to delay detecting such eventually life-threatening maladies as cervical cancer, testicular cancer, ovarian cancer, prostatic cancer, bladder cancer, aortic aneurysm and osteoporosis at a time when these conditions may still be amenable to treatment.

It also denies them the relief a negative result provides and deprives them of the chance of having their fears discussed in friendly surroundings and an unhurried atmosphere.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLA LAW (Chairman),
The Dr Jan de Winter Cancer Prevention Foundation,
6 New Road,
Brighton, East Sussex.
March 20.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

A modest proposal for a Model Army

From Sir John Nott

Sir, I was wondering, when I saw your leading article yesterday on Britain in the world, how it will be possible to retain the pride, enthusiasm and commitment of our Armed Forces where there is no obvious short-term threat to the security of the United Kingdom.

The old county regiments which provided tradition and local connections have either been dismantled or amalgamated. The Foreign Office would wish us, no doubt, to move towards a European Corps of Infantry commanded by a UN official or a committee of Euro-ambassadors: hardly an exciting mandate for a recruiting sergeant in Huddersfield.

As tomorrow is April 1, may I propose the creation of a new Model Army founded around the enthusiasm and comradeship of our football teams, Manchester United, Glasgow Rangers, Newcastle United, etc, would make excellent Regiments of the Line. It is these institutions which now command the loyalties of energetic, restless and patriotic young men.

There is little doubt that the majority of our football supporters would make excellent soldiers, demonstrating some of the attributes noted by the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo. My proposal would of course, be opposed by the Foreign Office as these young football supporters-turned-soldiers would frighten foreigners.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN NOTT
(Secretary of State for Defence, 1981-83),
32 Hampstead High Street, NW3.
March 31.

Saving urban souls

From the Archbishop of Liverpool and the Bishop of Liverpool

Sir, We are amongst many who will welcome Mr John Gummer's reported challenge to the Church ("Gummer tells Church to rescue souls lost in cities", March 23) to speak clearly to the spiritual condition of those living in urban priority areas. Yet we are concerned at the suggestion that the Church's concern with the physical regeneration of inner cities has been to the neglect of its spiritual mission.

Something like a third of the parishes which our dioceses serve are urban priority areas. Our experience over the last ten years has been that the publication of the Church of England report, *Faith in the City*, has lifted the morale of many Christians, lay people as well as clergy.

Those who for long years saw mere survival as the peak of their ambition have felt encouraged to be more outward-looking. By their greater involvement in the life and needs of the community, as well as by their worship and proclamation of the Gospel, they maintain, against all the odds, their commitment to the love and trust of God.

When they know that they are valued their God-given talents often develop to provide authentic local leadership of immense importance to both Church and society. This practical expression of love of God and neighbour lies at the heart of the Gospel and was one of the hopes central to *Faith in the City*.

Yours faithfully,
†DEREK WORLOCK,
†DAVID LIVERPOOL,
Archbishop's House,
87 Green Lane, Liverpool 18.

Coded messages

From Mrs Anne Tayler

Sir, Two unrelated events took place last week. I bought an electric cooker hood, and I went into hospital for a minor operation. This week I received receipts for payment for both these things — I think.

Hotpoint Ltd. have confirmed that I have paid them for "1 x 6052171" and the hospital's statement thanks me for payment for "E1310, E1810 and E1780 OPCS Procedure Codes".

Are we getting to the stage, I wonder, when words are considered unnecessary and we communicate by strings of letters and numbers? And what if you don't have the code?

Yours faithfully,
ANNE TAYLER,
8 North Street, Nazeing,
Nr Waltham Abbey, Essex.
March 24.

From Mrs Jill Truefitt

Sir, In trying to adjust my new central heating clock yesterday I discovered the definitive argument against British Summer Time. The instructions included the following:

Note (1) Using the - button on the 1st OFF to 3rd OFF the SET5 will not allow you to set an ON or OFF before the preceding OFF or ON. The display ceases to change when the preceding time is approached.

Note (2) Using the + button, when the time being set becomes the same as the next time, the next time, and any further times met are changed to the same time as that being programmed.

Faced with this, I gave up.

Yours sincerely,
JILL TRUEFITT,
Fox Cottage, 119 The Street,
Puttenham, nr Guildford, Surrey.
March 26.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 31: The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, *this morning* re-opened Waddesdon Manor, near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, and was received by the Lord and Lady Rothschild and the Chairman of the National Trust (the Lord Chorley).

Her Majesty, with His Royal Highness, toured the house and *later honoured the Lord and Lady* Rothschild with her presence at Luncheon.

The Rt Hon Sir Robert Fellowes was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 31: The Princess Royal, *Master, the Worshipful Company* of Woolmen, this morning attended the United Guilds Service at St Paul's Cathedral, London EC4, followed by a Luncheon at *the City of London Club, Old* Broad Street, London, EC2.

Mrs Timothy Holderness-Roddam was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 31: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, today visited *The Queen's Flight* at Royal Air Force Benson, Oxfordshire, on the occasion of the disbandment of The Queen's Flight, and assumption of future Royal Flying Duties by 32 (The Royal) Squadron.

Mrs Jane Stevens and Major *The Lord Napier and Ettrick* were in attendance.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Patron, The Scottish Ballet, this evening attended a performance of "Swan Lake" at the New Victoria Theatre, Woking.

Her Royal Highness was received by Major James More-Molyneux (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey).

The Hon Mrs Wills was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
March 31: The Duchess of Kent this afternoon received His Excellency the Honourable Dr Neal Blewett, High Commissioner for Australia.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
March 31: Princess Alexandra was represented by Colonel the Hon Nicholas Crossley at the Funeral of Anne Countess of Feversham which was held this afternoon at *All Saints* Church, Helmsley, North Yorkshire.

Memorial service

His Honour Edward Sutcliffe, QC
The Lord Chancellor was represented by Mr David Willink at a service of thanksgiving for the life of His Honour Edward Sutcliffe, QC, held on Thursday at the Temple Church. Canon Joseph Robinson, Master of the Temple, officiated. Mr Andrew Britton and Mr Roger Hall, sons-in-law, read the lessons. Mr Crawford Lindsay, QC, gave an address.

The President of the Family Division, the Treasurer of the Inner Temple, the Treasurer of the Middle Temple and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Canterbury attended. Among others present were:

Mrs Sutcliffe (widow), Mrs Andrew Britton and Mrs Roger Hall (daughters), Miss Rachel Britton, Miss Anne Britton, Mr and Mrs Mark Hall, Mr and Mrs Mark Harrison, Miss Caroline Hall, Mr Matthew Hall and Mr Michael Hall (grandchildren), Mrs E G Sutcliffe and Mrs Lois Smith (sisters-in-law).

The Right Rev David Say, Sir Ian Percival, QC, Sir Henry Warner, Lady Norman, Sir David Crouch, Sir Ralph Kilner Brown, Sir Gordon Borrie, QC, and Lady Borrie, Mrs Crawford Lindsay, Master John and Mrs Trench, Judge Compston, Judge van der Werff, Judge Pownall, Judge Richard Lowry, QC, Judge Michael Coombe, Judge and Mrs Hammerton, Judge and Mrs Murchie, His Honour James Scarlett, His Honour Derek Grant, QC, and Mrs Grant, His Honour John Ellison, His Honour Alan King-Hamilton, QC, and Mrs King-Hamilton, Mrs K M Hall, Mr Nicholas Browne, Mr and Mrs Michael Turner, Mr James Laughland, Major-General and Mrs C E Page, Mrs J Robinson, Mr John Harrison, Mr and Mrs David Brown, Miss Veronica Hammerton, Mr Alastair Hammerton, Mrs Elizabeth Ross, Mrs Penny Barnes, Miss M G M Dyer, Dr Kate Burton-West, Mr Roger Burton-West, Mr and Mrs Robin Sutcliffe, Mr Edgar Penolar.

Mr John Norman (chairman, Kent County Council), the Chief Executive and Town Clerk of Canterbury and Mrs C Gay, the Deputy Lord Mayor of Canterbury and Mrs Peter Baker with Councillor and Mrs Bernard Collins and Councillor and Mrs Tom Castle; Colonel Gerald Treadwell, Mrs Ann Smart, Miss M V Stokes, Dr Robert Kennedy, Mr Michael Kennedy, Mr and Mrs R C Goodwin, Mr and Mrs Basil Hillman, Mrs A Krantz, Miss C Krantz, Mr and Mrs M Copsey, Mrs Helen Grant, Mr R Mackenzie, Mr Brian Leech, Mr John Higdon, Mr Edward Eyre, Mr Lee Grant, Judge John Rogers (representing the Canterbury Court) and Mrs Rogers, Judge Giles Rooke, QC (representing the Canterbury Circuit Bench), Mrs P Shephard (representing the Men of Kent and Kentish Men), Mr P B Carter, QC (representing the Warden and Fellows of Wadham College, Oxford) with Mr Martin Reed (Wadham College, Law Society); and Mr Tony Floyd (senior warden, Needlemakers' Company) with Mr D Alan Foster and Mrs Foster.

Besieged Today wins award

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BBC Radio 4's flagship news programme *Today*, the focus of recent attack by Tory MPs, received a vote of confidence from the Broadcasting Press Guild yesterday, when it was named Radio Programme of the Year for 1994.

Jimmy Young, the Radio 2 broadcaster who added John Major to his line of distinguished interviewees last year, was named Broadcaster of the Year. Jimmy McGovern, creator of ITV's police thriller *Cracker* and writer of *the BBC film Priest*, won the Writer's Award for the second *year. Melvyn Bragg took the* Best Single Documentary award for his interview with the dying playwright Dennis Potter on Channel 4 and Phil Agland won the Best Documentary Series award for his Channel 4 production on China, *Beyond the Clouds*.



Juliet Aubrey: best actress

The BBC dominated the awards, with *Middlemarch* taking the Best Drama Series/Serial prize and the Best Actress award for Juliet Aubrey. Tom Wilkinson was named Best Actor for his role in another BBC classic adaptation, *Martin Chuzzlewit*.

The other awards for programmes broadcast in 1993 were: Best Single Drama, *Pat and Margaret* (BBC1); Television Journalist of the Year, George Alagiah (BBC); Best Entertainment, *Knowing Me, Knowing You with Alan Partridge* (BBC2); Best Entertainment Performance, Steve Coogan for *Knowing Me Knowing You*.

The Harvey Lee Award for Outstanding Contribution to *Broadcasting* was awarded to Richard Dunn, formerly chief executive of Thames Television and recently appointed executive director of News International Television.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.H. Banks and Miss V. Pilkington
The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Mr and Mrs Keith Banks, of Accrington, Lancashire, and Valerie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Pilkington, of Crosby, Liverpool.

Mr W.A.C. Heslop and Miss K.A. Milne
The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr Dick Heslop, of *Montrose*, and of Mrs Christopher Hansford, of Weybridge, and Katherine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Milne, of Painswick.

Mr D.G.T. Hudd and Miss P.M. Pancholi
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs Glyn Hudd, of Gravesend, Kent, and Preety, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Manhar Pancholi, of Finchley, London.

Mr T.G. Rawlins and Dr S.J.M. Pett
The engagement is announced between Timothy, youngest son of the late Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs A.G. Rawlins, of Farnborough, Hampshire, and Sophia, daughter of Major General and *Mrs R.A. Pett, of Somerset.*

Mr M.E.S. Russell and Miss M.E. Arkley
The engagement is announced between Miles, only son of The Hon William and Mrs Russell, of Malmesbury, Wiltshire, and Marion, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs D.W. Arkley, of Bournville, Birmingham.

Mr D.G. Shields and Miss A.J. Robinson
The *forthcoming marriage is* announced between David, son of Mr Peter Shields and Mrs Mary Oakley, and Antonia, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Robinson.

Mr S.I. Heilbron and Miss C.S. James
The engagement is announced between Simon, only son of Mr and Mrs Peter Heilbron, of Reigate, Surrey, and Siân, younger daughter of Mrs Elizabeth Bronwen James and the late Mr *Stanley James*, of Newbridge, Gwent.

Mr A.B.G. Horspool and Miss H.V.J. Laver
The *engagement* is announced between Anthony, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Horspool, of Esher, Surrey, and Harriet, only daughter of Mr Patrick Laver, of Bonn, Germany, and Mrs Marianne Laver, of Notting Hill Gate, London.

Mr R.A. Scott and Miss C.F. Lee
The engagement is announced between Robert Andrew, second son of Mr and Mrs Douglas Scott, of Wells Folly, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, and Caroline Frances, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Leonard Lee, of Parkstone, Poole, Dorset.

Mr M.J. Taylor and Miss A. Charlton
The engagement is announced between Michael James, elder son of Dr and Mrs John M. Taylor, of Stoke Bishop, Bristol, and Anne, younger daughter of Mr Darwell Charlton and the late Mrs Jennifer Charlton, of Chaldon, Surrey.

Marriage

Mr M.J. Woolcock and Miss D.J. Lister
The marriage took place on [illegible]day, March 24, at St Barnabas Church, Leigh, Surrey, of Mr Michael John Woolcock to Miss Daphne Jane Lister. The Very Rev Dr David Edwards, officiated.

Anniversaries

Today
BIRTHS: William Harvey, physician, *discoverer of the circulation* of the blood, Folkestone, 1578; Abbe Prévost, novelist, Hesdin, France, 1697; Saloman Gessner, painter and poet, Zurich, 1730; William Mulready, painter, Ennis, Co Clare, 1786; Prince Otto von Bismarck, Chancellor of Germany 1871-90, Schönhausen, 1815; Sir Truby King, pioneer of mothercraft, New Plymouth, New Zealand, 1858; Ferrucio Busoni, *pianist and composer, Empoli*, Italy, 1866; Edmond Rostand, dramatist, Marseilles, 1868; Lon Chaney, actor, Colorado Springs, California, 1883; Dame Cicely Courtneidge, actress, Sydney, New South Wales, 1893.

DEATHS: John Langhorne, poet, Blaydon, Somerset, 1779; Ferenc Molnár, dramatist, New York, 1952; Max Ernst, Surrealist painter and sculptor, Paris, 1976; Marvin Gaye, singer, shot by his father, Los Angeles, 1984.

The Territorial Army, a force of volunteer soldiers mainly for home defence, was formed in Britain, 1908.

The RAF was formed, absorbing the Royal Flying Corps, 1918.

American forces invaded Okinawa, 1945.

The US launched its first weather satellite, 1960.

Tomorrow
BIRTHS: Charlemagne, King of the Franks and Holy Roman Emperor 801-814, Aix-la-Chapelle, 747; Giovanni Casanova, adventurer, Venice, 1725; Catharine *Macaulay, historian*, Wye, Kent, 1731; Hans Christian Andersen, story-teller, Odense, Denmark, 1805; William Holman Hunt, painter, member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, *London*, 1827; Emile Zola, novelist and critic, Paris, 1840; Sergei Rachmaninov, composer and pianist, Oneg, Russia, 1873; Max Ernst, Surrealist painter and sculptor, Brühl, Germany, 1891; Marvin Gaye, *singer*, Washington DC, 1939.

DEATHS: Honoré Mirabeau, politician and orator, Paris, 1791; Richard Cobden, "The Apostle of Free Trade", London, 1865; Samuel Morse, painter and inventor of the telegraphic code bearing his name, New York, 1872; Edward O'Connor Terry, actor-manager, 1912; C.S. Forester, novelist, Fullerton, California, 1966; Georges Pompidou, President of France 1969-74, Paris, 1974.

The US mint was established in Philadelphia, 1792.

The first Italian parliament met in Turin, 1860.

The Spanish Civil War officially ended, 1939.

Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands, 1982.

Royal engagements

Today
The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths (Cot Death Research), will attend the annual national conference at the City University at 9.25.

Lord Lieutenant

Mr Philip Wroughton to be Lord Lieutenant for Berkshire in succession to Mr John Henderson.

University news

Oxford
St Antony's College
To Governing Body Fellowship: Philip Robins.

Service dinners

HAC
Major-General A.C.P. Stone was *the principal guest* at the annual dinner of III Squadron, Honourable Artillery Company, held last night at Armoury House. Major D. Brigden, Squadron Commander, presided. *Lieutenant* J.M. Sweeney also spoke.

57/257 Field Regiments
Officers of 57 (Home Counties), 257 (County of Sussex) and 257 (Sussex Yeomanry) Field Regiments RA (TA) held their annual dinner at the Sussex Yeomanry Mess, Brighton, last night. Major D.A. *Gulland presided. Major Andrew* Brown also spoke. Officers of 200 (Sussex Yeomanry) Battery and 127 (Sussex Yeomanry) Field Squadron RE (V) were also present.

The Parachute Regiment
Captain John Fairfax-Ross presided at the annual dinner of the 9th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment Officers' Dining Club, held last night at the Army and Navy Club.

Intelligence Corps
The 40th Annual Dinner of the Intelligence Corps Officers' Dinner Club was held at Templer Barracks, Ashford, Kent last night. General Sir Charles Guthrie, Colonel Commandant, presided and *guests included Lieutenant* General Sir Roger Wheeler, Lieutenant General Sir John Foley and Lieutenant Colonel Dr A.H. Clayton.

SEE
Colonel S.J. Abaze, Commandant of the School of Electronic Engineering, presided at the school's final dinner held last night at Arborfield.

General Duties (G) Branch Intelligence RAF
A dinner was held last night at RAF Brampton to mark the fifth anniversary of Intelligence Specialisation of the General Duties (G) Branch Intelligence RAF. Squadron Leader J.P. Loader presided. Group Captain N.M. Evans also spoke.

RAF Oxford and Cambridge Society
Dr Peter North, Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, and Air Chief Marshal Sir William Wratten, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Strike Command, were the guests of honour at the RAF Oxford and Cambridge Society annual dinner held last night at Jesus College, Oxford. Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher Foxley-Norris presided.

Northumbrian Universities Air Squadron
Viscount Ridley, KG, Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland and Chancellor of Newcastle University, was the guest of honour *at the annual dinner of the* Northumbrian Universities Air Squadron held last night at the university. Squadron Leader J.D. Smithson presided.

Dinners

London Pembrokeshire Society
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended the centenary dinner of the London Pembrokeshire Society held last night at the Mansion House. The Lord Mayor, Mrs Hedydd M. Hannaby, president, Professor Stuart Cole and Sir Maldwyn Thomas, President of the London Welsh Association, were the speakers.

National Railway Museum
The Right Hon Dr Brian Mawhinney, Secretary of State for Transport, was speaker at the Annual Dinner of the National Railway Museum held on Thursday in the Museum's Great Hall, York. Sir Neil Cossons, Director of the National Museum of Science and Industry, Lord Downe, Chairman of the National Railway Museum's Advisory Committee, and Mr Andrew Scott, Head of the Museum, welcomed the guests.

Latest wills

Mr Maurice Frederick Hurdle, of Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire, left estate valued at £7,540,624 net.

Mr Wilfred Ivan Madge-Forman, of Canford Cliffs, Poole, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,161,189 net.

After personal bequests he left £1,000 and 1/8th of the residue each to the Seaman's Friendly Society of St Paul, the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Benevolent Society, Spana and RSPB, and 1/8th of the residue to the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

Sir Anthony Edward Percival, of Beckenham, Kent, Secretary of the Export Credit Guarantee Department 1962-71, left estate valued at £219,565 net.

Other estates include (net, before tax):

Mr John Burrough, of Beer, Devon, farmer.......£1,438,594.
Mr Francis Edgar Butwell, of Wednesfield, West Midlands.......£1,458,766.
Oona Eileen Cartwright, of Chichester.......£1,276,107
Mr George Arnold Linnecor, of Poole, Dorset.......£770,773.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Colin Butler, priest-in-charge, All Saints, Darlaston, and Industrial Chaplain, Black Country Urban Industrial Mission Ministry (Lichfield), to be Team Rector, Chell Team Ministry, same diocese.

The Rev Eric Foskett, who retired on January 6 as Vicar, St Bartholomew, Allens Cross (Birmingham), now has permission to officiate, *same diocese*.

The Rev David Goss, Team Rector, Gleadless Valley, Sheffield, to be Vicar, St Aidan, Wheatley Hills, Doncaster (Sheffield).

The Rev Graham Hardwick, Vicar, St Nicolas, Nuneaton, to be Vicar, St Oswald's, New Bilton (Coventry).

The Right Rev David Hallatt, Bishop of Shrewsbury, to be also Chairman of the Board for Mission and Unity (Lichfield).

The Rev Jeffrey Heskins, Team Vicar, St Nicholas, Kidbrooke, Kidbrooke Team Ministry, to be Rector, St Luke, Charlton (Southwark).

The Rev Paula Hollingsworth, curate, *Keynsham* (Bath and Wells), to be part-time Curate (part-time), St Paul, Balsall Heath (Birmingham).

The Rev Geoffrey Holmes, Curate, Clifton, Rotherham, to be minister-in-charge, Eastwood View, Rotherham (Sheffield).

The Rev Andrew Howell, Vicar, St John the Evangelist, Facit, to be priest-in-charge, St John the Baptist, Smallbridge, and St James, Wardle (Manchester).

The Rev Ian Jelley, Curate, Jarrow team ministry, to be priest-in-charge, St Andrew's, Leam Lane (Durham).

The Rev Simon Killwick, Team Vicar, St Mary, Ellenbrook, in the parish of St Mark, Worsley, to be priest-in-charge, St Andrew, Dearnley (Manchester).

Weekend birthdays

Today
Miss Brigitte Askonas, immunologist, 72; Mr George Baker, actor, 64; Mr Cynog Dafis, MP, 57; Mr David J. Davies, chairman and chief executive, Johnson Matthey, 55; *the Rev Norman Drummond*, former Headmaster, Loretto School, 43; Mr Alex Falconer, MEP, 55; Professor R. Floud, Provost, London Guildhall University, 53; Sir Anthony Gill, former chairman and chief executive, *Lucas Industries*, 65; Mr David Gower, cricketer, 38; Sir Nicholas Henderson, diplomat, 76; the Earl of Ilchester, 75; Baroness McFarlane of Llandaff, 69; Professor M.L. McGlashan, chemist, 71; Mr Justice Macpherson of Cluny, 69; *Mr John Murdoch*, director, Courtauld Institute Galleries, 50; Professor Sir Dimitri Obolensky, Russian and Balkan historian, 77; Mrs Marie Patterson, trade unionist, 61; Mr Charles H. Price, II, American diplomat, 64; Mr Steve Race, *musician and broadcaster*, 74; Dr R.C. Repp, Master, St Cross College, Oxford, 59; Miss Sheila Whitaker, director, London Film Festival, 59; Mr Dafydd Wigley, MP, 52; *Professor Sir Dillwyn* Williams, former president, Royal College of Pathologists, 66.

Tomorrow
Vice-Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, 52; Sir Jack Brabham, racing driver, 69; Sir Graham Bright, MP, 53; Mr Linford Christie, athlete, 35; Air Marshal Sir Geoffrey Dhenin, 77; Captain Sir Richard Dobbs, former Lord *Lieutenant of Co Antrim*, 76; Sir Christopher France, civil servant, 61; Miss Catherine Gaskin, author, 66; Mr Brian Glover, actor, 61; Mr Raymond Gubbay, concert promoter, 49; *Sir Alec* Guinness, CH, actor, 81; Viscount *Hambleden*, 65; *Mr Barry Hills*, racehorse trainer, 58; Sir Ian Hunter, impresario, 76; Miss Penelope Keith, actress, 55; Sir Peter Lazarus, civil servant, 69; Sir Peter Middleton, civil servant, 61; Sir Robert Munro, former president, *Senate of Fiji*, 88; *the Marquess of Northampton*, 49; Major-General C.J. Popham, 68; Mr A.C. Puddephatt, general secretary, Liberty, 45; Mr M.G. Rizzello, sculptor and coin designer, 69; Sir Denis Rooke, former chairman, British Gas, 71; Lord Skelmersdale, 50; Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh *Thompson*, 64; Miss Sue Townsend, writer, 49; Mr Denis Tuohy, broadcaster, 58.

Church services tomorrow

Passion Sunday

ABERDEEN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Jackson in G, Motet, Of the Glorious Body *Telling, the Provost; 6.30 Choral E, Ashfield in E minor*, Praise to the Lord Jesus (Schutz), the Provost.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Ridout in F, Miserere mei (Victoria), Rev J Record; 3.15 E, Responses (Greening), First Service (Shepherd), Lamentation (Tallis); *6.30 Compline, Rev R H Symon*.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Mass for four voices/Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Canon R Chapman; 3 E, O vos omnes (Palestrina), Responses (Clucas), Purcell in G minor, Salvator mundi (Blow).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Rev R Cadman; 11.15 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Canon B Thompson; 6 Choral E, Responses (Morley), In jejunio (Tallis), *Vice Provost*.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Choral M, Jackson in G, Canon T Dennis; 11.30 Choral Euch, Darke in F, Eonia (Tavener); 3.30 Choral E, In the Departure (Bull), Responses (Byrd), Purcell in E minor, Praise to the Lord Jesus (Schutz); 6.30 ES, Canon T Dennis.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Stanford in E flat, Gounod in G, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton), Canon M Perry; 11.15 HC, Mass in G minor (Vaughan Williams); 3.30 E, Responses (Smith), Gloucester Service (Howells), Blessed Jesu fount of mercy (Dvorak).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Beati quorum via (Stanford), Acting Precentor; 3.45 E, Preces (Smith), Howells in G, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, God so loved the World (Stainer), Darke in E, Ave Verum (Elgar), Prof Catchpole; 11.30 M, Responses (Ferial), Sumsion in B flat, Is it nothing to you (Ouseley), the Precentor; 3 E, *Responses (Hutchings), St Andrews Service* (Brown), Greater love hath no man (Ireland); 6.30 E, O Saviour of the World (Goss), Rev M Gent.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in F, Beati quorum via (Stanford), Ubi caritas (Duruflé), the Precentor; 3.30 E, *Responses (Ayleward), Stanford in G, Lord thou hast been our refuge* (Bairstow).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Sanctus & Benedictus (Merbecke), Agnus Dei (Byrd), the Precentor; 11.15 M, the Lamentation (Bairstow), Responses (Rose), The crown of roses (Tchaikovsky); 3.45 E, Walmisley in D minor, Responses (Rose), Lacrymosa (Mozart), Canon P Clarke.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch, Coll Reg (Howells), Rev G Davies; 3 Choral E, *Fauxbourdons (Tomkins), Canon H Thomas*; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8, 12.15 H Euch, Ven R Roberts; 9 Euch, Rev Boon-Hor Khoo; 11 S Euch, Schubert in G, God so loved the world (Stainer), the Dean; 3.30 Choral E, Responses (Christopher Dowie), Ave verum *corpus (Mozart)*; 6.30 E, Mr V Steele.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Walton), the Dean; 3.30 E; 6.30 Crucifixion (Stainer).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Mass in four parts (Byrd), O saviour of the world (Ouseley), V Rev H Dickinson; 11.30 M, Responses (Tomkins), I will lift up mine eyes (Sowerby), Canon J Stewart; 3 E, Responses (Tomkins), Short Service (Gibbons), I would *beside my Lord (Bach)*.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Choral Euch, Kyrie Orbis factor (Plainsong), *Meane mass (Taverner), Out of the deep* (Tomkins), Ave verum (Carol), Canon D Painter; 3 E, Evening Service (Doveton), Laboravi in gemitu meo (Caldara), Rev Canon R White.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M, the Librarian; 10 S Euch, the Lent Prose, Messe *Solennelle (Vierne), the Cathedral Curate*; 6 E, Responses (Ayleward), Jackson in G, Libera me (Duruflé), the Dean.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Harwood in D, Jesu grant me this (Whitlock), Rev C Borneweil; 11.30 M, Sumsion in B flat, Dyson in D, O Saviour of the world (Somervell); 3 E, Walmisley *in D minor, Cast me not away* (Wesley), Ven R Frith.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, *Responses* (Tallis), *Westminster Service* (Clucas), Benedicite (Batten), Jerusalem, Convertere ad Dominum (Palestrina), Canon C Semper; 11.15 Abbey Euch, Kyrie (Anon), O Lord I lift my heart to thee (Gibbons), Sanctus and Benedictus (Ives), Agnes Dei (Power), O Mensch, bewein dein Sunde gross (Bach), Sir H Markey; 3 E, *Sumsion in G, An hymne to God* the Father (Humfrey), Rev T Hiney; 6.30 ES, Canon D Gray.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30, 7 M; 10 MP; 10.30 SM, Missa Douce memoire (de Rore), In jejunio et fletu (Tallis), Tribulatio et angustia (Josquin); 3.30 V & B, Magnificat primi toni (Viadana), Lamentations of Jeremiah (Tallis).

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Stanford in C, Timor et tremor, Canon *Morgan*; 11.30 Euch, Sarum Service (Leighton); 3.30 E, Coll Reg/Salvator Mundi (Howells), Rev Canon B Rlison.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Darke in F, O magnum mysterium (Victoria), Rev Canon L Stanbridge; 11.30 M, Sumsion in B flat, Britten in C; 4 E, Responses (Clucas), St *Paul's Service (Howells), Fair is the heaven* (Harris), Rev Canon R Metcalfe.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, *Darke* in F, *Hear my prayer* (Purcell), the Canon; 3.30 Choral E, Responses (Byrd), I was glad (Parry).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 Sm, A Community Mass (Richard Proulx), Ave Verum (Mozart), Procession of Palms, Rev M Bowen.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 MS & HC, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), the Minister; 11.30 Science Festival, Crucifixus (Lotti), 8 ES, Rev S Mitchell.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 10.15 M; 11 S Euch, Mass for 4 voices (Byrd), In jejunio et fletu (Tallis), Rev J Halliburton; 3.15 E, Second Service (Leighton), Responses (Ayleward), Civitas sancti tui (Byrd), Rev J Morley.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Missa Bell Amfitrit altera/ Tristis est anima mea (Lassus), Prebendary N Collings; 6 E&B, Tallis in the Dorian Mode, In jejunio et fletu (Tallis), Rev P McGeary.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 C, 11, Rev J Cook; 6.30 C, Rev C Hobbs.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Western Wind Mass (Taverner), Call to remembrance (Farrant), Remember O thou *man (Ravenscroft)*.

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children; 11 Family C, Rev P Elvy; 6 E, Mr J Watherston.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 12.30, 6.30, Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, Fr A Meredith, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM, O vos omnes (Asola), Miserere mei (Vittoria), Civitas sancti tui (Byrd), Missa 'Deo Genitor alme' (Plainsong); 5 Meditation — Reviter & B, Passion (Vittoria, Lotti, Handel).

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC, M Wright; 11 Informal, J Jennings; 5, 7.30 Informal, Rev S Millar.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Sex toni (Croce), *De Profundis (Josquin)*, 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B, Super flumina Babylonis (Palestrina).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 MP, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, 6.30, Rev Dr R J Tudor.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev P Schmiege; 2 Swahili HC, D Adamson; 7 Choral M, Missa de De Profundis (Vincenzo Ruffo), *Rev P Schmiege*.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Rev A Winter; 6.30 Choral E, Rev B Lunn.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, The Lamentation (Bairstow), Purcell in C, O Lord God (Child), Rev V Stock; 6.30 Choral E, Responses (Ayleward), Humfrey in F minor, Alone to Sacrifice (Leighton), Guild Chaplain J Burton.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11, Rev Dr W Alston; 6.30, Rev W A Cairns.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 SM, Mass No 2 in G (Gounod), Aestimatus sum (Victoria), Offertoire (Franck).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Viadana), Crucifixus pro nobis (Rubbra), the Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: Garlick Hill: 10.30 S Euch, John Paul, Queen Victoria St: 5.30 Choral E, English Chamber Choir, John Paul, Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa ad fugam (Palestrina), Rev B Wilson; 6 E.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family C, Rev J Richardson, Toccata (Flor Peeters); 6.30 EP & Praise, Rev M Holmden.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Vexilla Regis prodeunt (model), Rev D Watson; 6.30 E, The Bellman's Song (Vaughan Williams), N Hinton.

ST MARK'S, Regent's Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Missa L'Hora Passa — Viadana (The Lamentation — Bairstow), Rev J Yates.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Canon D Hutt.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev F Claringbull; 11.30 Visitors, Rev J Pridmore; 2.45 Chinese, Rev G Lee; 5 Choral E; 6.30 ES, Rev B Schunemann.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 9.45, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa (Lassus), Fr M Seed; 6 E&B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Plainsong Mass, Christus factus *est (Bruckner)*; 6 EP.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Rev R McLaren, Mass for five voices (Byrd), O Crux ave spes unica (Morales); 6.30 Ministry of Healing, Rev J Cowling.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch, Mass by Jonathan Dove, Wash me throughly (Handel), Canon E James.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 11 *Euch; 11 S Euch, Mass for five voices* (Berkeley), Tantum ergo (Duruflé), Rev D Thiyer.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM; 11 SM, Missa "Le Bien que j'ai" (Goudimel), Ne irascaris Domine (Byrd), Lord let me know mine end (Greene), Canon C Colven; 6 B & Stations of Cross.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: no services — closed for Marathon.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 S Euch, Mass in 3 parts (Byrd), Canon J F Hester.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 M; 11 Choral Euch, Aeterna Christi Munera/Nos autem gloriari oportet (Palestrina); 3.30 E, God so loved the world (Stainer), Aston in F, Lamentation (Bairstow).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera/Super flumina Babylonis (Palestrina).

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Byrd in 4 parts, the Chaplain.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Responses (Radcliffe), Sumsion in B flat, Thalben-Ball in C, Salvator mundi (Blow), the Master.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 Choral HC, O word immortal (Gibbons), [illegible] in E minor, the Chaplain.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 4 Choral E, Walmisley in D, *The Passion (Schutz)*.

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Yet the Lord took thought for his oppressed servant and healed him who had given himself as a sacrifice for sin. Isaiah 53 : 10 (REB)

BIRTHS

BROADHURST - On March 23rd at The Portland Hospital, to Anne and Chris, a beautiful daughter, Charlotte.

BUCHANAN - On March 24th 1995 at Plymouth Derriford Hospital, to Sarah (née Prescott) and Stephen, a beautiful daughter, *Eleanor* Rose.

BULLIVANT - On March 23rd 1995, *to Louise (née Osborn)* and Adrian, a son, Christopher James.

DICKERS - On 17th February 1995, to Lindsay (née MacBean) and Clive, a daughter, Gabriella Zoë.

FERARD - On 23rd March, to Sally (née Knowles) and Dominic, a son, Benedict Charles Agace, a brother for Charlotte and India.

FRASER - On 28th March at St Mary's, Paddington, to Lucy (née Roper-Curzon) and Benjie, a son, William Melville, 9lbs 4oz, a brother for Thomas and Eliza.

OLID - *On March 29th* at the Wellington Hospital, to Julia, Serge and sister Harriet, heavenly twins George and Jessica.

PARKES - On 27th March 1995, to *Sophie* (née Kind) and Stephen, a daughter, Katya Sophie.

PRICE - On 28th March, at Northwick Park Hospital, to Drs. Christopher and Kirsten, a son, Sebastian Christopher James, 6lbs 8oz.

ROSS-SKINNER - On 28th March, to Serena and Sambrooke, a son, James Allan Crawley, a brother for William and Emily.

STEWART - On 28th March 1995, to Victoria (née Yates) and Paul, a son, Dylan Young.

WATTS - On March 29th, to Sarah (née Bullock) and Sean, a beautiful daughter, Hebe Madeline, a sister for Theodora Evie. A second successful water birth at home. Grateful thanks to midwives Marion O'Neill and Anita Jones.

WHITEHEAD - On March 29th 1995 at The West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds, to Mark and June (née Dowell), a beautiful son, Morgan Henry Milton, a brother for Nicholas.

WISE - On March 29th, to Nicoletta (née Agnew) and Nicholas, a son, *Edmund Hugo Peter*.

DEATHS

BANNOCK - On March 29th 1995, peacefully, Percy Henry aged 92 years, of Norwich, Norfolk, loving husband of the late Marie (née Halliday), respected father of Roy and Brian, a loving grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service and cremation at St Faith's Crematorium, St Faith's, Norwich, on Saturday April 8th at 12 noon. Flowers to G.W. Gooch & Sons Funeral Directors, Kimberley Street, Norwich, by 10 am please.

BRIDGE - On March 19th suddenly, Brenda Lois (née Streatfeild), wife of Tony Bridge and much loved mother of Tor, Char and Cyppo. Funeral at Guildford Crematorium on Friday April 7th at 11 am, followed by Memorial Service in Guildford Cathedral at 2 pm on Thursday April 27th. No flowers please, but donations to Guildford Samaritans.

BYERLEY - Vivienne, late Press Representative H.M. Tennent Ltd., died Whittington Hospital 28th March 1995, aged 86. Cremation Golders Green April 3rd at 4 pm. No flowers by request.

CAMPBELL - On 29th March 1995 at Lyme Regis, Margaret Joan, formerly of Evershot, Dorset. Widow of David, a much loved mother and grandmother. Funeral Service at Evershot Parish Church on Monday 10th April at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired for The Alzheimers Disease Society c/o A.J. Wakely and Sons, 91 East Street, Bridport, Dorset.

CHERRY - On 25th February 1995 in South Africa, Anthony, husband of Clare, father of Charlotte and William. Will be greatly missed by family and friends. Memorial Service to be held at 12 noon on 10th April 1995 at Caundle Marsh, Sherborne, U.K. Clare, tel: (01963) 23431.

CRONOPULO - On March 30th, Cynthia (née Watson), beloved wife of the late Alec and adored mother of Kristine and Stephanie (Saroop) and dear mother-in-law of Narinder. Cremation private at her request.

DAWSON - On 28th March 1995, Ian M.P. Dawson, peacefully at his home in Great Shelford, Cambridge, aged 73. Loving husband of Margaret and much loved father of Jane, Jill, Hugh and Clare and beloved grandfather. Funeral at Cambridge City Crematorium on Thursday 6th April at 2 pm. Family flowers only but donations if wished to McMillan Nurse Appeal c/o Townsends Funeral Service, 18 High Street, Great Shelford, Cambridge. CB2 5EH.

GOODMAN - Robert (Bob), peacefully on 29th March 1995, aged 87 years, beloved and wonderful husband of Peggie for nearly 60 years. Greatly loved by his 7 children, 14 grandchildren and 1 great. Cremation at Redditch Crematorium on Wednesday 5th April at 2.30pm. Donations, if desired, to Dolphin Watch or Alexandra Hospital Scanner Appeal. Service of Thanksgiving to be announced later.

GRAY - On March 31st 1995 at Aveley Hill Nursing Home, Farnham, Betty, wife of the late David Gray M.C.S., mother of Simon and grandmother to Alison and Rosalind. Funeral Service to take place at St Thomas on the Bourne, Farnham, on Friday April 7th at 11.30am. No flowers think you: donations if desired to the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council c/o Farnham Funeral Service, 100 Shortheath Road, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8SE.

HART - On March 30th 1995, Ven, peacefully in his sleep, beloved son of Barbara and Ken and brother of Andy. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium on Thursday 6th April at 11 am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Trinity Hospice, 30 Clapham Common North Side, London SW4 0RN.

HENDERSON - On 30th March 1995, the Honourable Roderic Dalzell Henderson, peacefully in West Palm Beach, Florida.

HICKMAN - Peacefully in hospital on 30th March, Denis Stuart of Churchill, Oxon., formerly of Nassau, Bahamas. Beloved husband of Jean, adored father of Tara, Rowena and Anya and grandfather of Elliot and Edward. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Churchill, on Wednesday 5th April at 2.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Juniper Ward, Horton Hospital, Banbury, Oxon.

IRVING - Sir Charles, peacefully after a long illness at The Grange, Malvern Road, Cheltenham on Thursday, 30th March. Member of Parliament for Cheltenham 1974-1992. Borough Councillor 1947-1995. Three times Mayor of Cheltenham, Freeman of the Borough, Hon. Alderman of Gloucestershire County Council, Deputy Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, supporter of many charitable causes. An irreplaceable loss to his family, countless friends and the people of Cheltenham. Civic funeral at St Mathews Church, Clarence Street, Cheltenham on Monday, 10th April at 6 pm. Family flowers only to Co-operative Funeral Service, Lansdown Road, Cheltenham. Donations in lieu to "The Charles Irving Charitable Trust", The Grange, Malvern Road, Cheltenham. GL50 2JH.

NORLAND - Ralph Otto Norland on 24th March 1995. Funeral Service 2 pm on Friday 7th April at The Norwegian Church, Albion Street, London SE16, near the Rotherhithe Tunnel South Side. All donations to The Norwegian Church and Seamans Mission. All enquiries to F.A. Albin & Sons Funeral Directors, tel: (0171) 237-2600.

PETHYBRIDGE - On March 11th 1995, Robert Edward Pethybridge, dear father of Bridget, Robert, Lucy and William.

SAYWELL - On 30th March in hospital after a long illness borne with great fortitude, John Evan Hardy. Funeral Service at St Saviour's Church, The Strand, Walmer, Kent, at 1 pm on Thursday 6th April. Flowers to E.B. Cavell, 28 Albert Road, Deal, Kent.

TAMPLIN - On March 29th 1995, peacefully in Cheltenham General Hospital, Mary Tamplin M.A., aged 84, of Cirencester, former Headmistress of St Dunstan's Abbey, Plymouth. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Stratton, 11.30 am Friday April 7th. Enquiries to Packer & Slade F/D, City Bank Road, Cirencester, tel: (01285) 653626.

WATTS - Elsie suddenly on 27th March 1995. Funeral Service at St Olave's Church, Hart Street, London EC3, on Thursday 6th April at 2.30pm, followed by cremation at South London Crematorium, Rowan Road, Streatham, London SW16 at about 4.30pm. Flowers to J.E. Gilman & Sons Ltd., 971/973 Garratt Lane, Tooting, London SW17, or donations to Sue Ryder Foundation, Cavendish, Suffolk CO10 8AY. Any enquiries please telephone (0181) 681-3265.

WYLIE - On 30th March James David Wylie, courageous and beloved husband of Frances, wonderful father to James, Nicholas, Jonathan and Lucy and loving grandfather of Eleanor. Funeral Service on Thursday, 6th April 12 noon at St Nicholas Church, Tolleshunt D'Arcy, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to St Helena Hospice or M.E.C.H.T. (District Nurses) through Richards, 96 Church Road, Tiptree, Essex CO5 0HB.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

GARDNER - Dorothy O.B.E., M.A., died April 1st 1972. Loved friend of Jack and Amelia Jenkinson.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

KETTLEWELL - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of R.W. Kettlewell will be held on Wednesday April 19th in St Mary's Church, Chipping Norton, Oxon. at 2 pm.

BIRTHDAYS

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(Granny Anne)
HAPPY 92ND BIRTHDAY
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LEGAL NOTICES

LITTLEWOOD, Mrs. Blanche, of 5 Ridley Close, Croxton, Leicestershire, died on 3rd day of March 1995. Particulars to PHILIP J. HAMMOND & SONS Solicitors of 47 Friar Lane, Leicester. LE1 5QX.

No 1344 of 1995
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
MR REGISTRAR BUCKLEY
In the Matter of ASCOT HOLDINGS Plc
-and-
In the Matter of The Companies Act 1985.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 29 March 1995 confirming the reduction of the share capital of the above-named Company from £79,000,000.041 to £29,061,488.60 and the share premium account of the above named company from £221,572,896.17 to £34,271,896.17, were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 30th March 1995. DATED: 30 March 1995. Messrs Palmer & Co, Sorrento House, 184 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2DQ. Tel: 071 353-0898. Fax: 071 583 8682. Ref SJH/PAL/12888.253.

TRUSTEE ACTS

LEWINGTON Nancy Susan of 1 Heath Road, Reading, Berkshire died on 20th March 1995. Particulars to Gurland & Sheppard Solicitors of 160 Friar Street, Reading, Berkshire before 17th June 1995.

PHILLIPS, IRENE CONSTANCE of 5 [illegible], Reading, Berkshire died on 13th February 1995. Particulars to SARJEANT & SHEPPARD Solicitors of 160 Friar Street, Reading, RG1 1HE before 7th July 1995.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

HUMPHREYS-OWEN Miss Elizabeth Mary late of 46 Holland Street, London, W8 died 21st December 1994. Particulars to Messrs Bird & Bird Solicitors, 90 Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1JP before 6th June 1995.

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RETIREMENT

FRANK "Well done!" [illegible]. Cheers of love from the family, Ashley and Ina.

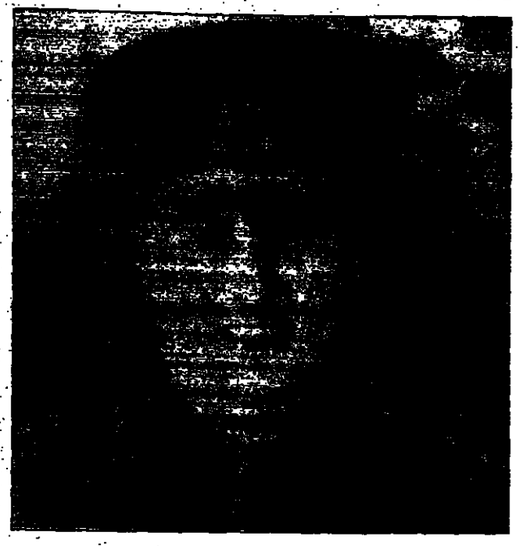
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OBITUARIES

LIEUT-COLONEL MARCUS ERVINE-ANDREWS, VC

Lieutenant-Colonel Marcus Ervine-Andrews, VC, who won the decoration during the defence of the Dunkirk perimeter in June 1940, died on March 30 aged 83. He was born on July 29, 1911.



THE holder of one of the first two Victoria Crosses awarded to the Army in the Second World War, Marcus Ervine-Andrews won the highest decoration for valour during the last days at Dunkirk. It was at the most crucial juncture of the maintenance of the bridgehead against the German Army, vital if the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force and French units in the area was to continue to the end.

To ensure that the Germans did not break through this contracting perimeter and descend upon the exhausted and virtually defenceless troops waiting for rescue on the beaches, the defence of the line of the canal running from Veurne (known throughout the campaign by its French name, Furnes), just inside the Belgian frontier, to Bergues, a bar four miles inland from Dunkirk itself, was vital.

On the night of May 31-June 1, 1940, Marcus Ervine-Andrews, then a lieutenant (acting captain), was commanding B Company of the 1st Battalion of the East Lancashire Regiment, which was holding a 1,000-yard sector of the canal against strong pressure from advanced units of the German 20th Motorised Division. The Germans attacked at dawn on June 1, and managed to cross the canal thus threatening the flank of the battalion position.

Ervine-Andrews, with volunteers from his company, rushed across open ground to an old barn not far from the canal. Climbing on to its thatched roof, they directed rifle and light machinegun fire on the enemy, thwarting their efforts to cross. They continued to do this although the roof to which they clung continually had holes punched in it by German mortar bombs and by armour piercing rounds from heavy automatic weapons, which luckily went straight through the thatch without exploding. Ervine-Andrews personally killed 17 of his opponents with his own rifle and many more with a Bren gun. The combined fire of his small party halted the attack for ten precious hours, enabling the rest of the battalion to withdraw and regroup on the Canal des Chats, halfway back to the coast.

Eventually, with ammunition exhausted, the barn shattered and burning, and still under fire, Ervine-Andrews managed to evacuate all his wounded and then slipped away with the eight survivors. Wading and swimming for over a mile with water up to their chins, he led them back to the beaches. There, they were taken off in small boats and embarked in the destroyer *Shikari* on the last of the organised evacuation run on June 3.

Ervine-Andrews's VC was the only one awarded for action in the Dunkirk perimeter; the other VC gazetted at the same time was that awarded posthumously to Lance-Corporal Harry Nicholls, Grenadier Guards, who had won it in the May fighting on the River Scheldt.

Son of C. C. Ervine-Andrews of New Ross, Wexford, Harold Marcus Ervine-Andrews was educated at Stonyhurst College and Sandhurst. He was commissioned into the East Lancashire Regiment in 1932, and served with its 2nd Battalion in Shanghai, Hong Kong and on the North West Frontier of India where he was attached to the RAF as an air liaison officer and was mentioned in dispatches. This early experience with the RAF was to influence the rest of his military career. He returned to join the 1st Battalion in 1939.

After Dunkirk, he was again attached to the RAF until he was seconded to the Australian Military Forces in 1941 and served initially in their Military Operations Directorate in Melbourne. After Pearl Harbor he was attached to the RAAF as Senior Instructor in Direct Air Support, and in 1943 he was promoted lieutenant-colonel as GSO 1 (Air) at HQ Allied Land Forces South-West Pacific Area.

He returned to the 5th Battalion of his regiment in the autumn of 1943 before being given command of 61st Carrier-Borne Army Liaison Section. He ended the war back in the Far East as the Senior Air Liaison Officer to the 21st Aircraft Carrier Squadron in *HMS Royalist*.

He stayed in the Army for a short time after the war, commanding a holding battalion during the demobilisation period, before then turning to public relations, first in the Army Mobile Information Unit, and later as Assistant Director of Public Relations at HQ BAOR. He retired from the Army in 1952.

Ervine-Andrews was a very modest man, who genuinely cared for his men and wanted to share the credit for his VC with them. He always insisted that the fight on the Bergues-Veurne canal had been a company action, the success of which was due more to them than to himself. In a speech at his old school (whose pupils have won seven Victoria Crosses) he said: "Any little thing that I was able to achieve was only made possible by the support and bravery of the men with me." This was a self-effacing assessment of his conduct on that day, the truth probably being closer to what the citation for his VC said about the matter, namely that: "... his magnificent example imbued his own troops with the dauntless fighting spirit which he himself displayed".

He was essentially a countryman, who was a good shot and loved fishing and all field sports. He went into pig-breeding, and latterly reared ducks, ornamental pheasants and other species of wild fowl at his retirement home at Gorran in Cornwall, where he lived surrounded by nature.

Marcus Ervine-Andrews married, in 1939, Betty, daughter of R. I. Torrie and they had a son and daughter. The marriage was dissolved in 1952 (she died in the 1970s) and he married, secondly, in 1981, Margaret Gregory. She and the children of his first marriage survive him.

THE VEN CHARLES HOOPER

The Venerable Charles Hooper, Archdeacon of Ipswich, 1963-76, died on March 22 aged 83. He was born on April 16, 1911.



CHARLES HOOPER burst on the diocesan scene, rather like Elijah of old, when in 1963 he was appointed Archdeacon of Ipswich. He was a dynamic figure — tall, well-built and having about him an air of both authority and dignity.

In his work among the parishes his quiet but firm and sensitive appraisal of difficult situations, frequently presented to archdeacons, quickly won him respect. In his parochial visitations there was never a sense of confrontation but always one of gentle inquiry. He was never overjoyed by church administration but faithfully attended all the sometimes boring and tiresome committee meetings associated with his office. His comment afterwards often would be: "I expect the Church will carry on successfully despite all our endeavours" — a view which usually proved correct.

Charles German Hooper was the son of a solicitor. He won a scholarship to Lincoln College, Oxford, graduating with a second in English in 1932. He prepared for ordination at St Augustine's College, Canterbury, and after two years, spent as curate of Corsham in Wiltshire, left for South Africa where he served, again as a curate, in Claremont, Cape Province. He returned home in 1939 first to be priest-in-charge of two inner city parishes in Bristol and then to be rector of Castle Combe. In 1942 he enlisted as an RAF chaplain and spent most of the remaining years of the war overseas, being mentioned in dispatches.

After the war he was rector of Sandy in Bedfordshire until 1953 and then vicar (and, within a year, rural dean) of Bishop's Stortford until 1963 when he left Hertfordshire for Suffolk, becoming Archdeacon of Ipswich and holding simultaneously the country parishes of Bildeston and Wattisham.

In 1967 he moved into Ipswich to be more accessible to the work of his archdeaconry. He was appointed rector of two parishes in the town centre, both of which were virtually redundant, their populations having moved out. Under his wise guidance they were both finally closed in 1974, even if for some the ending was a little abrupt.

For his last two years as the bishop's eye on the diocese he served as priest-in-charge of two villages, while continuing to take a full part in the life of the town (he was chaplain of the Ipswich Licensed Victuallers Association and a popular after-dinner speaker).

After his retirement, which took place in 1976, he continued his ministry for as long as his health and age permitted. He was a good preacher, taking great pains to adjust his style to his congregation's needs — further proof of the pastoral care which characterised his approach.

He is survived by his wife and their son and daughter.

DR RONALD MURRAY

Dr Ronald Murray, MBE, clinical radiologist, died on March 5 aged 82. He was born on November 14, 1912.



FOR much of his working life Ronald Murray's name was synonymous with the practice of skeletal radiology in the United Kingdom. He was instrumental in promoting the speciality both nationally and internationally. He was for 21 years consultant radiologist to the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in London and Stanmore, where his experience and love of teaching endeared him to successive generations of radiologists and orthopaedic surgeons in training. A founder of the International Skeletal Society, he achieved worldwide recognition of his talents in his chosen field.

Ronald Ormiston Murray was born in Glasgow and educated at Glasgow Academy, Loretto School, St John's College, Cambridge, and St Thomas' Hospital Medical School.

His parents had died during his childhood and he was brought up by his older brothers. It was his eldest brother, a leading Scottish physician, who encouraged him to train in medicine.

A talented sportsman, he represented Cambridge at rugby football in 1934-35 and Scotland in 1935. In swimming also he represented his university and was a member of the British Universities team visiting Turin in 1935. Although he always remained a keen swimmer, his major sporting interest after university was golf, although he felt his talent for the game left much to be desired.

After medical qualification, his house appointments at St Thomas' Hospital were cut short by the Second World War. He was commissioned in 1939 and served as medical officer to the 2nd Battalion, the London Scottish, and eventually as a lieutenant-colonel in command of No 130 Field Ambulance in 1945-46.

He took part in the Allied assaults on Sicily, Salerno, Anzio and Normandy. Later his unit was responsible for the rehabilitation of prisoners released from the Sandbostel concentration camp, an experience that he was never to forget. He was able to observe and report on the physical response of these starving prisoners to the administration of a high calorie diet. In 1945 he was appointed MBE for his military service.

After the war Murray trained in radiology while simultaneously being involved in the postwar redevelopment of the Morland Clinics, later to become part of the NHS. The impetus to his interest in orthopaedic radiology began when he was appointed radiologist to Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital, Alton, Hampshire.

In 1954 he was given leave of absence from the NHS to spend two years as Associate Professor of Radiology at the American University Hospital in Beirut, a post that provided him with unique experience. On his return, he was offered the post of consultant to the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital and was also appointed a senior lecturer in the Institute of Orthopaedics. He was, at the same time, consultant radiologist to Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital and Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot. It was his proud boast that his three appointments, comprising the work relating to some 600 orthopaedic beds, gave him the widest experience in skeletal radiology of anyone in the United Kingdom.

One of his major research interests was the effect of steroids on the skeleton and this work led to his being awarded an MD. It also resulted in an invitation to lecture in the United States, where a chance meeting with Professor Harold Jacobson resulted in a perhaps unlikely but close and enduring friendship.

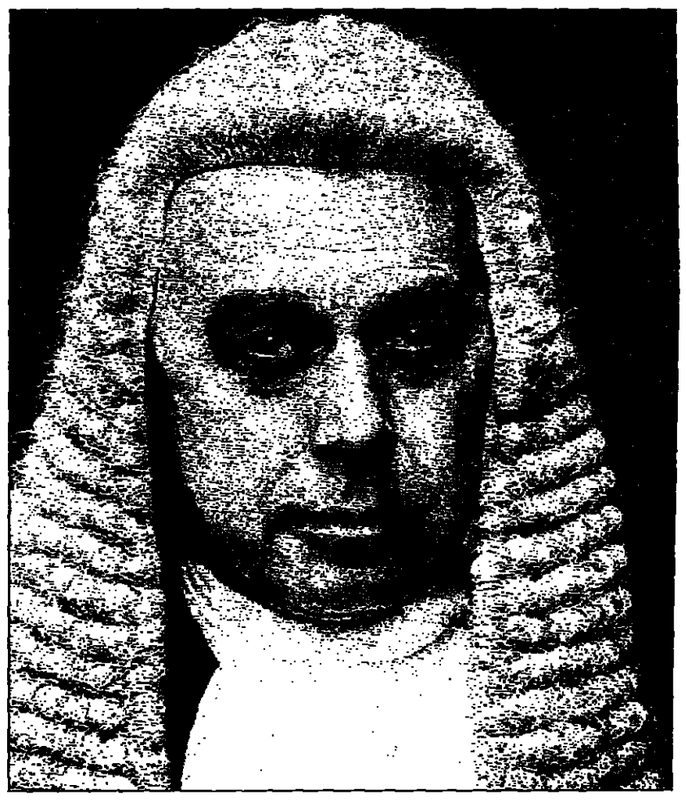
At Murray's suggestion, together they broke new ground by persuading an at first reluctant publisher to accept the concept of a large book that combined a reference text with a quiz presentation, on the basis that learning should be both challenging and fun. A runaway success, this publication, *Radiology of Skeletal Disorders: exercises in diagnosis*, reached its third edition in 1990.

Together with Jack Edeiken, Murray and Jacobson founded the International Skeletal Society in 1972. A staunch supporter of the society, he was one of its early presidents and an editor of its journal.

Ronald Murray married Suzette (Susan) Gauvain, daughter of Sir Henry Gauvain in 1940. She died in 1980. He is survived by their son and two daughters, one of whom has followed him and her mother into medicine. In 1981 he married Jane Mathewson, who also survives him.

GROUP CAPTAIN FRANK WHITWORTH

Group Captain Frank Whitworth, QC, former Judge in the Courts of Appeal of Jersey and Guernsey, died on March 4 aged 84. He was born on May 13, 1910.



FRANK WHITWORTH once found himself the victim of a violent crime, but treated his assailants as if they were standing before him in the dock. It happened in the late 1980s when Whitworth and his wife were watching television. Just as Miss Marple was working out who had committed the crime, a trio of masked robbers burst in through the French windows, held the Whitworths up with a sawn-off shotgun and handcuffed them — with manacles apparently bought from a Soho sex shop.

The raiders then ordered them to open up the house safe. But Whitworth, who thought it was all a practical joke, rebuked them sternly for disrupting Agatha Christie's dénouement, while his wife, who had no head for figures, could never remember the intricate combination of the safe.

The men were completely nonplussed by their reception. On being told that the gardner would be calling at any minute they fled empty handed across the lawn, initiating an intensive police manhunt throughout Surrey.

They might never have tried at all had they known Frank Whitworth's history. Despite having only one lung (the result of contracting TB some years before) he had fought his way into the RAF in the Second World War and risen to the rank of group captain in five years, working on the supply of new aircraft for Bomber Command.

He was born in Manchester, the only son of a prosperous businessman who owned warehouses in the city. Young Frank went to Shrewsbury School, then Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he read classics and edited *Varsity*, the student newspaper.

Called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1934, he settled into a successful career as a London barrister, specialising to some extent in landlord and tenant litigation. He became head of his chambers in King's Bench Walk in the Temple, took silk in 1966 and was appointed an Appeal Court Judge in the Channel Islands in 1971, flying out to hear cases from time to time until his retirement in 1980 at the age of 70. He was also a Crown Court Recorder between 1972 and 1982, sitting mainly at Kingston upon Thames.

Whitworth was, however, a man of many parts. He fought St Helens for the Tories in the 1945 general election, losing to Hartley (now Lord) Shawcross in the Labour landslide. Despite being a staunch Conservative all his life, he once confessed to friends that, had he lived in the conditions endured by many of his potential constituents, he would probably have ended up a Communist.

Although he did not try for Parliament again, he often spoke at political meetings in Surrey and also sat for many years on Dorking and Horley Rural District Council.

He was twice master of the Clockworkers' Company, in 1962 and 1971, and served as a trustee of the Whiteley Village Homes from 1963 until 1993. He also wrote and published articles and verse throughout much of his life. But his main recreation was given in *Who's Who* as farming. He did indeed own a small farm, which luncheon guests were frequently dragged around in wellington boots to inspect the cows. He always enjoyed referring to "we farmers" making it clear that he regarded mere gardening as women's work. But he also employed a staff to do the milking.

Only 5ft 5in tall, he was known locally as "The Judge" and was looked upon as something of a character. He drove himself to the station in his Land Rover, the locals always giving him a wide berth, while at home he lived in considerable style, maintaining a housekeeper and a butler. He himself liked to wear a wing collar and clearly enjoyed the "Group Captain" prefix.

On the other hand, Whitworth was a very private person who managed to compartmentalise his life. However well colleagues might know him in one role, he told them little about his other interests. Many knew him but few knew him really well, failing to penetrate the twinkle in his eye.

Frank Whitworth was married twice. His first wife, Lucy, whom he met while at Cambridge, died in 1979 after suffering a long degenerative illness, through which he nursed her devotedly — often coming home from court in Kingston to get her lunch.

Then in 1980 he married a widow, Mrs Irene Lannon, who died four years ago. He had no children and is survived by cousins and a niece.

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ART EXHIBITIONS

The *Punch* cartoons, about 170 in number, which are now to be seen at the Fine Art Society's rooms in New Bond-street, illustrate more than anything else the unique position occupied by Sir John Tenniel. It would be superfluous to point out what all the world knows, the excellence of his drawing and its perfect adaptation to its purpose.

Almost all that can be said in the way of praise or criticism has been said already, many times over. Sir J. Tenniel does, indeed, hold a position by himself among contemporary artists, but this is due, not only to the absolute merit of his work but partly to the long and steady continuance for many years at the same high level.

Qualis ab incepto might very well be his motto. It is more than 40 years since he joined the staff of *Punch*, and for nearly the whole of that time he has so regularly and unfailingly produced the weekly cartoon that we do not remember more than one number — in 1894, we believe — from which his work was absent. In fact, nothing is more remarkable than the sustained uniformity of the whole series of the cartoons.

The earliest do not seem immature, nor do the latest betray any abatement of artistic or intellectual vigour. The Tenniel of to-day is the Tenniel of 1851, never vulgar, nor trivial, nor malicious, but prompt to seize upon the event of the day and to present it with combined truth and humour. For the rest we need not repeat the well-worn truisms as to the use and abuse of conventions and exaggeration in caricature. Palmerston with the straw that he never chewed, Bright with the eye-glass that he never wore, and the other great men are old friends. But they are not here.

These are original cartoons, saved from the destroying, but perpetuating, engraver by the process that now enables the original drawing to be transferred photographically to the wood. They are consequently recent, and in most of them Mr Gladstone is the central figure. Since Mr Gladstone's retirement, except for the famous "Who said — Atrocities?" cartoon, Mr Punch has had reason to lament the want of "a few statesmen with prominent features".

It may be that the newer cartoons are less entertaining than the old. Time, no doubt, will give them added interest; but in any case we must not blame the artist if statesmen of to-day cannot tread the political stage as impressively or as picturesquely as their predecessors.

ON THIS DAY

April 1 1895

Countless readers know Sir John Tenniel's illustrations in Alice in Wonderland, *but it should be remembered that, in his day, he was renowned for his political cartoons in* Punch *depicting public figures such as Gladstone and Palmerston*

NEWS

Major bids to reclaim Tory ground

■ John Major will challenge Tony Blair for the allegiance of Middle England with promises designed to re-establish the Tories as the party of the family, common decency and tax cuts.

In what will be seen as an attempted relaunch of the Conservative Party, the Prime Minister intends to confront Labour's resurgence by outlining a new agenda to take the Tories into the next election ..... Pages 1, 8, 9, 16, 17

Cantona puzzles with sardines

■ Eric Cantona, football's *enfant terrible*, had a two-week prison sentence for a flying kick at a Crystal Palace fan replaced with 120 hours' community service, and then passed an enigmatic verdict on his critics ..... Pages 1, 3

Teaching revival

New national tests for 11 year olds are triggering a revival of traditional teaching methods in state primary schools ..... Page 1

Hint of tax cuts

Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, gave his clearest signal that he intends to cut taxes in the November Budget ..... Page 1

Alarm over secure beds

The Government came under fire from the Lord Chief Justice over the "alarming shortfall" in secure hospital beds ..... Page 2

Car ban for rugby star

Wade Dooley, former rugby international and serving policeman, who knocked over a girl while twice the legal alcohol limit, was banned from driving ..... Page 3

SFO endorsed

The Serious Fraud Office was given a ringing endorsement by the Government, with a bigger role to tackle more cases ..... Page 5

Travel perk at risk

Business travellers who qualify for free flights may be forced to give their accumulated "miles" to their employer ..... Page 7

Tory rallying call

Tony Blair is a "Trojan horse" for a Labour party still tethered to its old politics, Jeremy Hanley told a Tory conference ..... Page 8

Paris file

The European Union's great and good are bracing themselves for a Jacques Chirac presidency in France ..... Page 10

Air crash kills 59

Witnesses heard an explosion before a Romanian airliner crashed, soon after take-off, killing all 59 people on board ..... Page 11

Refugees blocked

Up to 100,000 Rwandan refugees fleeing Burundi were stranded at the roadside after Tanzania closed its border ..... Page 15

Girl, 13, fights pylon blight

■ A girl aged 13 has taken on the might of corporate lawyers and planning experts to oppose proposals for a 50-mile line of electricity pylons — each twice the height of Nelson's Column — across the Yorkshire countryside ..... Page 5

MARC ASPLAND



Abbie Chapman, the Oxford cox, preparing yesterday for the final boat-race practice at Putney. Her crew have closed the gap on the Light Blues, but Cambridge are still clear favourites. Page 1

OPINION

Middle Britons: The Conservatives know that, without solid support from the moderately prosperous majority, they stand no chance of winning the next general election ..... Page 17

Method in madness: Though it is on the whole preferable to be governed by the sane, a hint of madness is sometimes the price of inspired leadership ..... Page 17

That fat yellow book: All is not as it seems under the dustjacket of *Wisden*, cricket's bible ..... Page 17

LETTERS

Allegations of bias and belligerence by broadcasters: blame for 200-mile transfer of head injury patient ..... Page 17

COLUMN

Simon Jenkins: "The most uplifting aspect of cyberspace is the medium. Its raw material is good old-fashioned words" ..... Page 16

Michael Pinto-Duschinsky: "Amid political triumph and adversity, the atrophy of the Tory party organisation has continued for the past 15 years" ..... Page 16

THE PARIS

Mr Clinton is entitled to celebrate a limited success, but plenty of work remains to be done in Haiti

— The New York Times

Great numbers of unemployed army personnel and lots of weapons still unaccounted for make for a potentially explosive mix in Haiti

— The Washington Times

Investor windfall: Members of Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society voted overwhelmingly for a takeover bid by Lloyds Bank, triggering cash windfalls for about 800,000 investors ..... Page 21

Atomic pressure: Nuclear Electric is pressing for a merger with Scottish Nuclear, before privatisation . Page 21

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 38.3 points to close at 3137.9. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 85.6 to 85.3 ..... Page 24

Lieutenant-Colonel Marcus Ervine-Andrews, VC; Dr Ronald Murray, clinical radiologist; **The Ven Charles Hooper,** former Archdeacon of Ipswich ..... Page 19

Cricket: Brian Lara and Carl Hooper led a West Indies recovery after they had lost their first three wickets for six runs on the opening day of the Barbados Test against Australia ..... Page 37

Football: Will Bruce Rioch, manager of Coca-Cola Cup finalists Bolton, move on afterwards to Arsenal? Page 38

Athletics: Liz McColgan, returning after injury, will try to stop Katrin Dorre winning the women's race for the fourth year in tomorrow's London Marathon ... Page 34

Buy one, get one free: a Far Eastern company launched in Britain this weekend has unsettled the industry with its aggressive pitch

MAGAZINE



Show of levity: discovering the serious side of Michael Barrymore, the man who put the light back into light entertainment ..... Page 8

Manor from heaven: Lord Rothschild shows Marcus Binney around his newly restored home ..... Page 16

Baring all: Lesley Garrett has a mission to convert unbelievers to opera ..... Page 23

Best of both worlds: Richard Avedon photographs Gianni Versace's designs ..... Page 28

Food and drink: Jonathan Meades finds a monster hit; Frances Bissell's cooks tour reaches Paris; Jane MacQuitty explains how to pick the right vintage champagne ..... Pages 45, 47, 51

WEEKEND



Date with death: Next Thursday, Nicky Ingram is due to be the first British-born man for 50 years to die in the electric chair ..... Page 1

Conflict of interests? Should Sir Richard Rogers resign his position on the Arts Council if he is also a recipient of Arts Council largesse? ..... Page 5

Fiennes minor: After Ralph, meet Joseph ..... Page 5

Success root: reviving a neglected plot ..... Page 8

Alternative Utopia: Europe's top eco-centre, in mid-Wales, celebrates 20 years of achievement ..... Page 15

Food flair: Julia Llewellyn Smith at a cookery course in Umbria hosted by Alastair Little ..... Page 18

VISION



Thriller: Clive Owen stars in *The Turnaround*, a tale of London life ..... Page 2

Big country: Melvyn Bragg on the new breed of country music stars ..... Page 3

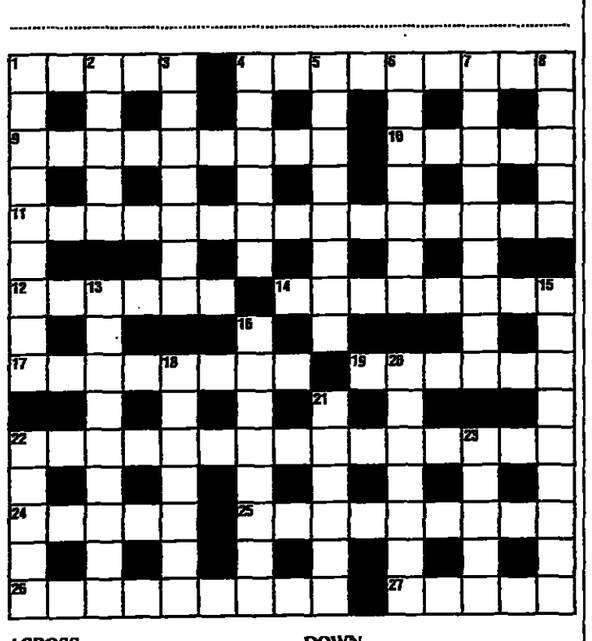
Pick of the week: *Mad Max* and other films ..... Page 4

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,818

KNOCKANDO

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .....



ACROSS

1 A lady going round property here (5)
4 A piece to play for a drink — after 12! (9)
9 Gently hit blue to score perhaps (5,4)
10 Dragoon in the army, for example (5)
11 Authority delegated to an influential person at forty-one, perhaps (5,2,8)
12 Delightful conjecture (6)
14 Plied oar, say, with leg and shoulder (8)
17 They willingly receive member with a flower (8)
19 The first to provide the answer to an unfortunate situation (6)
22 Urban television broadcast in which industry plays a large part (6-9)
24 A swimmer is the last to suffer from depression (5)
25 Violent players need a plaster jacket (9)
26 Dishonest but popular monarch in past (9)
27 "She that was ever fair and never —" (Othello) (5)

DOWN

1 In direct opposition to paladin, perhaps (9)
2 Endless complaint of North American wife (5)
3 A capital meal, safeguarding a lady's name (7)
4 Put galley on course for trials (6)
5 Approval for adventurous new actions (8)
6 Get rid of rotten cargo (7)
7 Scoring a run, flying off the handle to cover point (9)
8 Unrest in Yemen but on the other side (5)
13 Beggars in two states get imprisonment (9)
15 Appealed to doctor by note finally (9)
16 The extraction of blood? (8)
18 It's hard to measure temper (7)
20 It deserves to be hit when expanded on stage (4,3)
21 Acclimatize in terms of strain (6)
22 One replacement for Turner's English staff (5)
23 Ensnared by Cupid? A horrendous state! (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,812

P	A	S	S	E	R	B	Y		M	O	R	R	I	S
E		I		M		L			U		E		U	
B	E	L	L	B	U	O	Y		F	I	R	M	A	N
B		A		E		O		I		D		O		D
L	E	G	A	L		D	O	N	C	A	S	T	E	R
E		E		L		S		T			E		E	
			T	I	P	T	H	E	S	C	A	L	E	S
C		T		S		A		R		O		Y		S
R	O	U	G	H	D	I	A	M	O	N	D			
O		R			N		I		S		S		P	
T	I	N	N	I	N	E	S	S		T	O	N	G	A
C		P		N		D		S		A		E		C
H	A	I	R	D	O		T	I	E	B	R	E	A	K
E		K		R		O		L		Z		E		
T	H	E	B	A	N		I	N	D	E	C	E	N	T

Solution to Puzzle No 19,817

E	N	G	L	I	S	H	M	E	N		A		H	
	E		I		P		E		A	L	O	N	S	O
M	E	A	S	U	R	E	D		I		G		U	
	D		T		I	N	F	I	D	E	L	S		
	L		L		N		C				L		E	
H	E	R	E		G	R	A	T	I	F	Y	I	N	G
O		S		R		L		L		C		U		
P	R	E	S	T	O	N		P	L	U	M	A	G	E
P		N		L		B		I		O		S		
J	I	N	S	T	A	L	M	E	N	T		N	E	W	T
N		E			L		E		O		E			
G	A	M	E	F	O	W	L		R		H		A	
M		B		A		M	E	A	C	U	L	P	A	
A	L	L	O	U	T		A	T		L		O		
D		E		S	U	N	D	E	R	L	A	N	D	

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: D Brierley, Read, Nr Burnley; R Evans, Aberdare, Mid Glamorgan; M P Kelly, Doncaster, South Yorkshire; Ms J Casals, Boston, Lincs; D Griffiths, Hampton Wick, Surrey.

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouca,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Heref&s & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin,S Rfle/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 *London Orbital only*	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute all other times

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 6.37 am — Sun sets: 7.33 pm

Moon sets 9.23 pm — Moon rises 7.00 am

First quarter April 8

London 7.33 pm to 6.35 am
Bristol 7.43 pm to 6.45 am
Edinburgh 7.50 pm to 6.42 am
Manchester 7.43 pm to 6.41 am
Penzance 7.53 pm to 6.58 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 6.35 am — Sun sets: 7.35 pm

Moon sets 10.27 pm — Moon rises 7.28 am

First quarter April 8

London 7.35 pm to 6.33 am
Bristol 7.44 pm to 6.43 am
Edinburgh 7.52 pm to 6.40 am
Manchester 7.45 pm to 6.39 am
Penzance 7.55 pm to 6.56 am

HIGH TIDES

	TODAY AM	HT	PM	HT	TOMORROW AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2:20	7.18	2.43	7.26	3.07	7.26	3.30	7.26
Aberdeen	1.53	4.11	1.59	4.26	2.34	4.11	2.40	4.26
Avonmouth	7.56	13.58	8.12	13.55	8.37	13.58	8.53	13.55
Belfast	11.49	3.53	–	–	12.14	3.53	–	–
Cardiff	7.49	12.73	8.06	12.42	8.30	12.73	8.46	12.42
Devonport	6.28	5.45	6.44	5.37	7.08	5.45	7.24	5.37
Dover	11.43	6.50	–	–	12.07	6.50	–	–
Dublin	0.10	3.96	0.19	4.14	0.34	3.96	0.43	4.14
Falmouth	5.55	5.30	6.14	5.15	6.39	5.30	6.58	5.15
Glasgow	1.08	4.82	1.32	4.86	1.57	4.82	2.21	4.86
Harwich	0.20	3.95	0.43	3.95	1.07	3.95	1.30	3.95
Holyhead	10.57	6.57	11.16	5.37	11.41	6.57	–	–
Hull	6.58	7.35	7.05	7.63	7.29	7.35	7.36	7.63
Ilfracombe	6.44	9.26	6.57	9.15	7.21	9.26	7.34	9.15
King's Lynn	6.57	6.75	7.12	6.65	7.34	6.75	7.51	6.65
Leith	3.15	5.39	3.28	5.58	3.52	5.39	4.06	5.58
Liverpool	11.57	9.65	–	–	12.21	9.65	–	–
Lowestoft	10.17	2.34	10.15	2.41	10.40	2.34	10.38	2.41
Margate	0.40	4.79	1.04	4.78	1.28	4.79	1.52	4.78
Milford Haven	6.54	7.04	7.10	6.91	7.34	7.04	7.50	6.91
Newquay	5.40	7.00	5.57	6.87	6.21	7.00	6.38	6.87
Oban	6.20	4.03	6.28	3.91	6.53	4.03	7.11	3.91
Penzance	5.16	5.46	5.34	5.35	5.59	5.46	6.17	5.35
Portland	7.27	2.18	7.48	2.09	8.11	2.18	8.32	2.09
Portsmouth	–	–	0.27	4.65	–	–	0.51	4.65
Shoreham	–	–	0.13	6.26	–	–	0.37	6.26
Southampton	11.27	4.52	11.44	4.51	–	–	–	–
Swansea	7.06	9.70	7.29	9.52	7.53	9.70	8.16	9.52
Tees	4.16	5.24	4.27	5.26	4.51	5.24	5.02	5.26
Wilton-on-Nze	0.14	4.15	0.39	4.13	1.03	4.15	1.28	4.13

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday. Highest day temp: Minehead, Somerset, and Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, 14C (57F); lowest day max: Buxton, Derbyshire, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, Highland, 0.63in; highest sunshine: Jersey, 11.4hr

FORECAST

☐ **General:** Western England will be misty and cloudy, with eastern and central parts bright with sunny periods. Dry and warm. Scotland cloudy with rain at times in west and north. Brighter and mainly dry in east. Northern Ireland will be cloudy, dull, with patchy drizzle and bright periods in east.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N, NE England:** Cloudy with patchy mist, soon clearing. Then dry with sunny periods. Winds moderate or fresh westerly. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** cloudy. Mist or fog on coasts and hills. Drizzle in places. Bright inland. Wind fresh westerly. Max 14C (57F) inland.

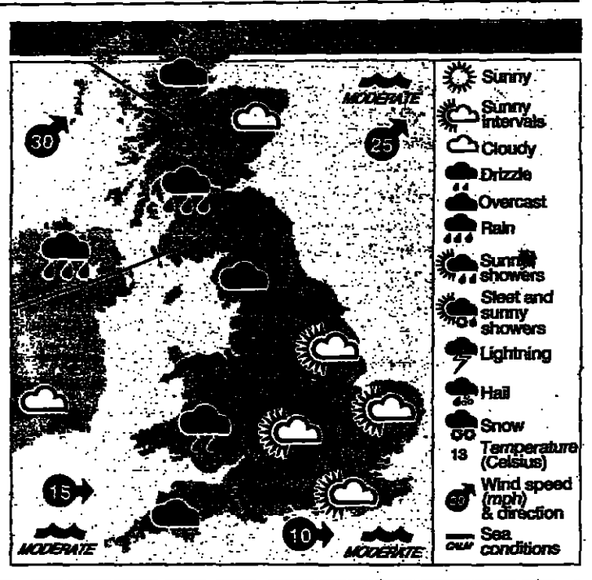
☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** partly cloudy, bright or sunny intervals, mainly dry. Winds moderate westerly. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland:** cloudy with rain or drizzle at times. Winds strong southwesterly. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** clear intervals and showers. Winds strong southwesterly. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **N Ireland:** cloudy with rain or drizzle in west. Brighter and mostly dry in east. Winds moderate southwesterly. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **Outlook:** Orkney and Shetland sunny intervals and showers. Scotland, cloudy rain at times, some bright intervals. Elsewhere settled and mainly dry with sunny periods, dull in western areas.



AROUND THE WORLD

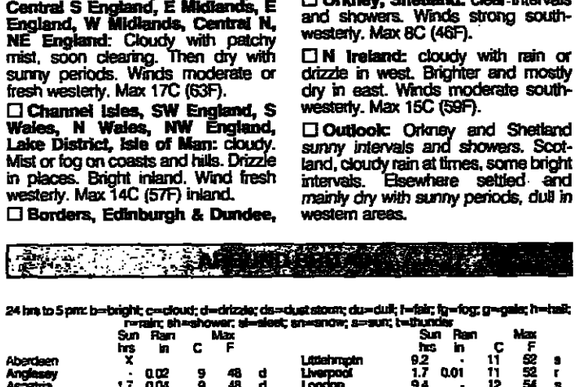
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	x	-	9	48	d	Littlehmptn	9.2	-	11	52	s
Anglesey	-	0.02	9	48	d	Liverpool	1.7	0.01	11	52	r
Aspatria	1.7	0.04	9	48	d	London	9.4	-	12	54	s
Aviemore	0.6	0.04	9	48	r	Lowestoft	8.0	-	11	52	b
Belfast	0.3	0.19	11	52	c	Manchester	2.4	-	10	50	r
Birmingham	1.9	-	10	50	c	Margate	8.5	-	12	54	s
Bognor R	11.0	-	11	52	s	Minehead	7.1	-	14	57	b
Bristol	1.7	-	13	55	b	Morecambe	1.3	0.16	8	46	r
Buxton	1.7	0.01	7	45	sh	Newcastle	x				
Cardiff	5.1	-	13	55	b	Newquay	x				
Clacton	10.2	-	10	50	s	Norwich	5.7	-	10	50	s
Colwyn Bay	3.9	-	14	57	c	Nottingham	x				
Cromer	6.9	-	10	50	s	Oxford	6.0	-	11	52	s
Doncaster	3.4	0.13	9	48	r	Penzance	5.2	-	13	55	d
Dunbar	x					Plymouth	7.2	-	12	54	s
Eastbourne	9.7	-	10	50	s	Poole	7.0	-	12	54	b
Edinburgh	1.2	0.05	11	52	r	Prestatyn	x	-	12	54	c
Eskdalemuir	1.6	0.19	7	45	r	Ross-o-wye	2.8	-	12	54	b
Exmouth	8.8	-	12	54	s	Salcombe	6.8	-	13	55	c
Falmouth	x	-	12	54	c	Saunth Snd	6.5	-	13	55	s
Fishguard	2.3	0.01	10	50	d	Scarboro'	2.9	0.06	7	45	sh
Folkestone	10.2	-	10	50	s	Scilly Isles	0.7	-	10	50	d
Glasgow	1.3	0.07	10	50	r	Shrewsbury	1.9	-	11	52	b
Guernsey	10.7	-	13	55	s	Skegness	6.0	0.01	9	48	r
Hastings	9.5	-	11	52	s	Southend	9.7	-	11	52	s
Hayling I	10.6	-	11	52	s	Southport	1.2	-	11	52	c
Herne Bay	8.7	-	11	52	s	Southsea	10.1	-	10	50	s
Howe	8.8	-	10	50	s	Stornoway	-	0.18	11	52	r
Hunstanton	5.8	0.01	9	48	sn	Swanage	9.3	-	11	52	s
Ilfracombe	x					Teignmouth	7.3	-	12	54	s
Isle of Man	2.1	0.06	11	52	b	Tenby	1.2	-	10	50	c
Jersey	11.4	-	12	54	s	Tiree	-	0.20	10	50	r
Kirkbss	0.5	0.13	12	54	r	Torquay	6.9	-	12	54	s
Leeds	1.6	0.13	9	48	r	Ventnor	9.3	-	10	50	s
Lerwick	0.2	0.33	8	46	r	Weymouth	7.7	-	11	52	s
Leuchars	1.0	0.01	11	52	r	These are Thursday's figures					

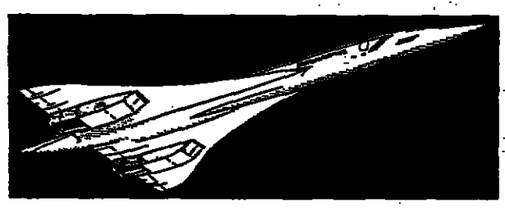
EUROPE

Ajaccio	14	57	s	C'phagn	3	37	r	Madrid	13	55	c
Alicante	19	66	f	Corfu	12	54	f	Majorca	15	59	s
Alex'dria	30	86	s	Dublin	13	55	c	Malaga	16	61	s
Algiers	15	59	f	Dubrovnik	8	46	f	Malta	13	55	c
Amst'dm	9	48	c	Faro	18	64	s	Melb'rne	13	55	c
Athens	15	59	f	Florence	10	50	s	Mexico C	23	73	s
Bahrain	35	77	c	Frankfurt	2	36	sl	Miami	31	88	f
Bangkok	37	99	s	Funchal	21	70	s	Milan	11	52	s
Barbados	-	-	-	Geneva	4	39	c	Montreal	7	45	f
Barcelona	14	57	s	Gibraltar	16	61	c	Moscow	5	41	s
Beirut	19	66	s	Helsinki	2	36	s	Munich	3	37	c
Belgrade	8	46	f	Hong K	18	64	r	Nairobi	-	-	-
Berlin	8	46	f	Innsbruck	3	37	f	Naples	10	50	f
Bermuda	-	-	-	Istanbul	9	48	f	N Delhi	-	-	-
Biarritz	12	54	s	Jeddah	32	90	s	N York	9	48	r
Bordx	13	55	s	Jo'burg	18	64	f	Nice	13	55	c
Brussels	6	43	d	Karachi	30	86	s	Oslo	5	41	c
Bucarest	7	45	c	L Palmas	21	70	s	Paris	7	45	r
B Aires	19	66	f	Le Touet	10	50	f	Peking	16	61	s
Cairo	29	84	s	Lisbon	19	66	s	Perth	22	72	s
Cape Tn	-	-	-	Locarno	13	55	s	Prague	5	41	f
Chicago	7	45	c	L Angels	21	70	s	Reykjavik	-2	28	f
Ch'church	17	63	-	Luxembg	0	32	sl	Rhodes	16	61	f
Cologne	4	39	r	Luxor	31	88	s	Rio de J	28	82	f
Riyadh	27	81	s								
Rome	11	52	s								
Salzburg	5	41	c								
S Prieco	18	64	f								
Santiago	21	70	s								
S Paulo	23	73	c								
Seoul	7	45	f								
Stckholm	5	41	s								
Strasb'rg	5	41	r								
Sydney	23	73	s								
Tangier	21	70	f								
Tel Aviv	22	72	s								
Tenerife	22	72	s								
Tokyo	19	66	c								
Toronto	6	43	f								
Tunis	13	55	s								
Valencia	16	61	f								
Vancver	15	59	s								
Venice	11	52	s								
Vienna	5	41	c								
Warsaw	3	37	f								
Wash'ton	14	57	c								
Wel'ngton	18	64	c								
Zurich	4	39	s								

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: High G will stay over northwest France but decline slightly. Low F will drift slowly towards Norway and fill. Low H will run northwards and fill



QE2 AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Orient-Express to Southampton on 3 May ● seven night VE Day cruise on QE2 via Gibraltar, Lisbon, Plymouth and Guernsey ● Orient-Express to Victoria £999

Orient-Express to Southampton on 16 July ● eight night Land of the Midnight Sun QE2 cruise to Stavanger via the Norwegian Fjords ● Concorde to Heathrow £2,499

Concorde to Stavanger on 24 July ● two night QE2 cruise to Southampton ● Orient-Express to Victoria £1,099

Orient-Express to Southampton on 26 July ● five night QE2 cruise to New York ● tour Boston, Montreal, Ottawa and Niagara ● Concorde return from Toronto £2,999

TORONTO OR BARBADOS

BA 747 from Heathrow or Toronto on 27 May or 3 Sept. ● five nights at the deluxe Sheraton ● harbour cruise ● Niagara with helicopter ● Phantom of the Opera ● Concorde supersonic return to Heathrow £1,999 or £2,699 for Toronto with Ryder Cup on 20 Sept.

Concorde between Heathrow and Barbados ● seven nights at the deluxe Discovery Bay on 23, 30 July or 19, 26 Aug. ● BA 747 £1,999

ORIANA AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Concorde from Heathrow to Nice on 2 July ● six night Oriana cruise from Cannes to Southampton via Tarragona and Lisbon ● Orient-Express to Victoria £1,099

Orient-Express from Victoria to Southampton on 8 July ● six night Oriana cruise to St. Petersburg via Oslo and Copenhagen ● Concorde return to Heathrow £1,999

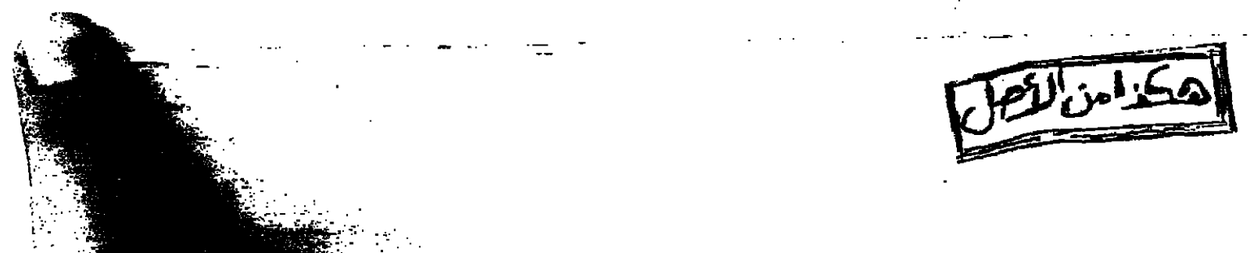
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Our City Editor focuses on the water rebates



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Partners in Power at the Really Useful Group



SPORT 34-40

Bruce Rioch plots the downfall of Liverpool

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook — SATURDAY APRIL 1 1995



DEREK IRONSIDE

Willie Phillips, the managing director of Macallan-Glenlivet, celebrates a rise in pre-tax profits from £5.7 million to £6.7 million during 1994. The total dividend from the whisky group rises from 1.1p to 1.265p out of earnings up from 3.62p to 4.12p. Sales rose from £15.5 million to £17.2 million

C&G members give clear vote for Lloyds takeover

BY SARA MCCONNELL

MEMBERS of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society yesterday voted overwhelmingly in favour of the society's £1.8 billion takeover by Lloyds Bank, clearing the way for cash payments this summer of up to £13,500 for qualifying investors.

But the society's 384,000 borrowers will get nothing and neither will the 100,000 savers who have not had a share account open continuously since December 31, 1992. They had been disenfranchised when the High Court ruled that only members of more than two years' standing could qualify for cash payouts under the Building Societies Act.

John Bays, the chairman, and Andrew Longhurst, the chief executive, came under fierce attack, mainly from excluded members, at a fractious and often ill-tempered meeting in London attended by 2,000 people.

A total of 629,000 investors, including those who voted by post, were in favour of accepting the deal, a massive 94.9 per cent of the 663,000 who cast a vote. Of borrowers, 130,000 voted in favour and 45,000 against, just under 75 per cent of the number who voted. C&G will become part of Lloyds in July, if the deal is approved by the Building Societies Commission in June. Cash payouts will be made in August.

Every first-named investor with more than £100 in a Cheltenham Gold, London Share, Instant 7, Best 90 or Tessa will get a flat payment of £500. Children and depositors will also get £500. On top of this, investing members and the society's 60,000 depositors will get a further bonus of 13 per cent of the balance of their account. Widows and widowers who are not the first named on the account will now get a bonus, after an outcry when it emerged that they would get nothing unless they had been members in their own right for two years. Only the first named on an account is regarded as a member.

A clearly relieved Mr Longhurst said the proposals had been well thought out and in the interests of the bulk of the membership. But he refused to comment on suggestions that the whole takeover was a "textbook example of how not to do it".

Originally the C&G wanted to share Lloyds' £1.8 billion between savers, borrowers, staff and pensioners and announced how the money was to be shared out. But when the High Court ruled that this was illegal and that borrowers and members of less than two years' standing could not benefit, the C&G was forced to go back to the drawing board. Its revised proposals shut out more than 400,000 members.

Many of those members who attended the meeting accused the board of refusing to communicate or answer questions in the run-up to the vote and refusing to consider alternatives to the Lloyds deal.

Who benefits

Qualifying balance £	Fixed payment £	Extra payment (13%) £	Total £
100	500	13	513
1,000	500	130	630
5,000	500	650	1,150
10,000	500	1,300	1,800
50,000	500	6,500	7,000
100,000	500	13,000	13,500

Who benefits: People who have held share account continuously since end-1992 or who hold deposit accounts opened on, or before, March 31, 1994 qualify for the full £500, plus extra payout (expected to be 13 per cent). Those with less than £100 on the qualifying dates do not get the £500, but still get the % payment. Under 18s who qualify get the same payout as adults. A statutory bonus, probably 8-8 per cent, is payable to non-qualifying minors and adults with balances below £100 at end-1994.

Who gets nothing: borrowers; savers with £100-plus balances who have not held a share account continuously since end-1992; anyone who withdraws their money before completion date, July 31, 1995.

Dollar upsets stock markets

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

RENEWED dollar decline, combined with a sharp upward revision of American growth, upset the bond and stock markets on both sides of the Atlantic yesterday.

In London, the FT-SE 100 index ended the final quarter of the tax year 38.1 points lower at 3,138.1 after a slump in share prices on Wall Street.

The pound, which had recovered lost ground after the surprise half-point cut in the German discount rate on Thursday, dropped more than 3 pfennigs to finish at DM2.2271. The sterling trade-weighted index slipped 0.2 to close at 85.3.

The dollar failed in a volatile trading day to benefit from an overnight cut in Japan's short-term interest rates. Against the pound, it closed almost three cents lower in London at $1.6280, and dropped to DM1.3870 from DM1.4110. Against the yen, it dropped to new low of 86.30 after a Thursday close of 89.54.

Currency analysts said the renewed fall in the dollar indicated that the rate moves by Germany and Japan were insufficient to alter the negative fundamentals for the US currency. Neil MacKinnon, chief currency economist at Citibank, said the dollar will soon hit DM1.25 and 75 yen.

Although the revision of America's fourth quarter gross domestic product to show annual growth of 5.1 per cent, against a preliminary 4.6 per cent, was not the main cause of market concern, it fueled speculation that the Federal Reserve will lift interest rates again. Friday's US employment data will provide an important guide to any Fed decision.

Gold surged to its highest since early October as US investment funds bought heavily. It closed at $392 an ounce, after $396, compared with $383 on Thursday. Analysts said buying was driven by the German and Japanese interest rate cuts, which suggested that they were both taking an easier line on inflation.

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WEEKEND MONEY



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HALIFAX

MORTGAGE SPECIAL



28-29 Home loans for the self-employed. APR confusion

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3137.9	(-38.3)
Yield	4.34%	
FT-SE A All-share	1538.64	(-13.22)
Nikkei	16139.95	(-372.27)
New York:		
Dow Jones	4154.58	(-17.96)*
S&P Composite	500.19	(-2.03)*
Federal Funds	6¼%*	(6¼%)
Long Bond	102²⁸₃₂*	(102²⁸₃₂)
Yield	7.45%*	(7.41%)
3-mth Interbank	6¼%	(6⁹⁄₁₆%)
Ltte long gilt future (Jun)	102²⁸₃₂	(103⁴)
New York:		
$	1.6203*	(1.6095)
London:		
$	1.6280	(1.5968)
DM	2.2267	(2.2575)
FFr	7.7780	(7.8785)
SFr	1.8314	(1.8794)
Yen	140.72	(143.18)
£ Index	85.3	(85.6)
London:		
DM	1.3785*	(1.4090)
FFr	4.8096*	(4.9120)
SFr	1.1325*	(1.1690)
Yen	86.75*	(89.60)
$ Index	89.0	(90.9)

Tokyo close Yen 86.37

Brent 15-day (Jun)	$17.25	($17.15)
London close	$382.65	($383.35)

* denotes midday trading price

Pep for bonds

The Inland Revenue is to allow sterling Eurobonds to be included in corporate bond personal equity plans. The move boosts the amount of allowable bonds from £15 billion to £25 billion. Page 25

Water bid referred to MMC

BY MARTIN WALLER

THE possible takeover bid for Northumbrian Water, worth £576 million at today's market price, from Lyonnaise des Eaux, of France, has been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The reference came after the European Commission, which under EC rules would normally have considered it, indicated that the matter should be examined by the British authorities because Britain had a "legitimate interest" to look at the regulatory aspects of a bid.

A merger reference is automatic under the terms of the Water Industry Act, 1991. Both parties now face long negotiations with the MMC, the industry regulator and others.

Lyonnaise, which last month announced a wish to bid for Northumbrian at a price to be decided once the regulatory clearances are out of the way, welcomed the move. But Michael Taylor, Northumbrian finance director, said he was disappointed the reference had gone ahead with no firm commitment as yet from the French that they would launch a bid.

Tempus, page 24

Ten NatWest Bank non-executives share £455,000

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL Westminster Bank has revealed full details of non-executive directors' pay for the first time.

The total bill for 10 non-executive directors was £455,000 last year, down from £463,000, after a director retired in April. Denis Child, who also chairs its Lombard North Central finance arm, was paid most at £81,000, up from £74,000.

NatWest is reducing its directors' service agreements from three-year rolling contracts to one-year. The bank's annual report shows John Tugwell, who runs NatWest Bancorp in the US was the highest-paid director, receiving £1.46 million because of a £914,000 bonus, against £1.8 million in 1993.

The pay of Derek Wanless, chief executive, rose 15 per cent to £499,000, including a £115,000 bonus. That of John Melbourn, deputy chief executive since last March, rose 23 per cent to £411,000. Lord Alexander, NatWest chairman, of NatWest, has joined the executive bonus scheme and received a bonus of £100,000, taking his total pay up by more than a third from £305,000 to £417,000.

Abbey National also gave more details of directors' pay. Its report showed Peter Birch, chief executive, had a 24 per cent pay rise last year to £408,280, including a £92,500 bonus, and £82,500 payments to two former directors.

Kleinwort Benson also published its annual report yesterday. It showed that eight directors of the investment bank, made a £1.1 million paper profit last year after exercising their rights to options on 375,492 shares.

They included Lord Rockley, chairman, whose pay package rose 10.6 per cent last year to £658,000 including a £359,000 performance bonus. He also made a £143,427 paper profit on his share options. The pay rises were despite a fall in pre-tax profits from £102.5 million to £97 million. Total dividend rose 16 per cent to 21.5p.

☐ John Carter, Commercial Union chief executive, had a 35 per cent pay rise to £398,315.

BNFL signs contract for £14bn

BY ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NUCLEAR ELECTRIC, the atomic generator, is pressing ministers for a merger with Scottish Nuclear, its smaller, state-owned sister, as a prelude to privatisation.

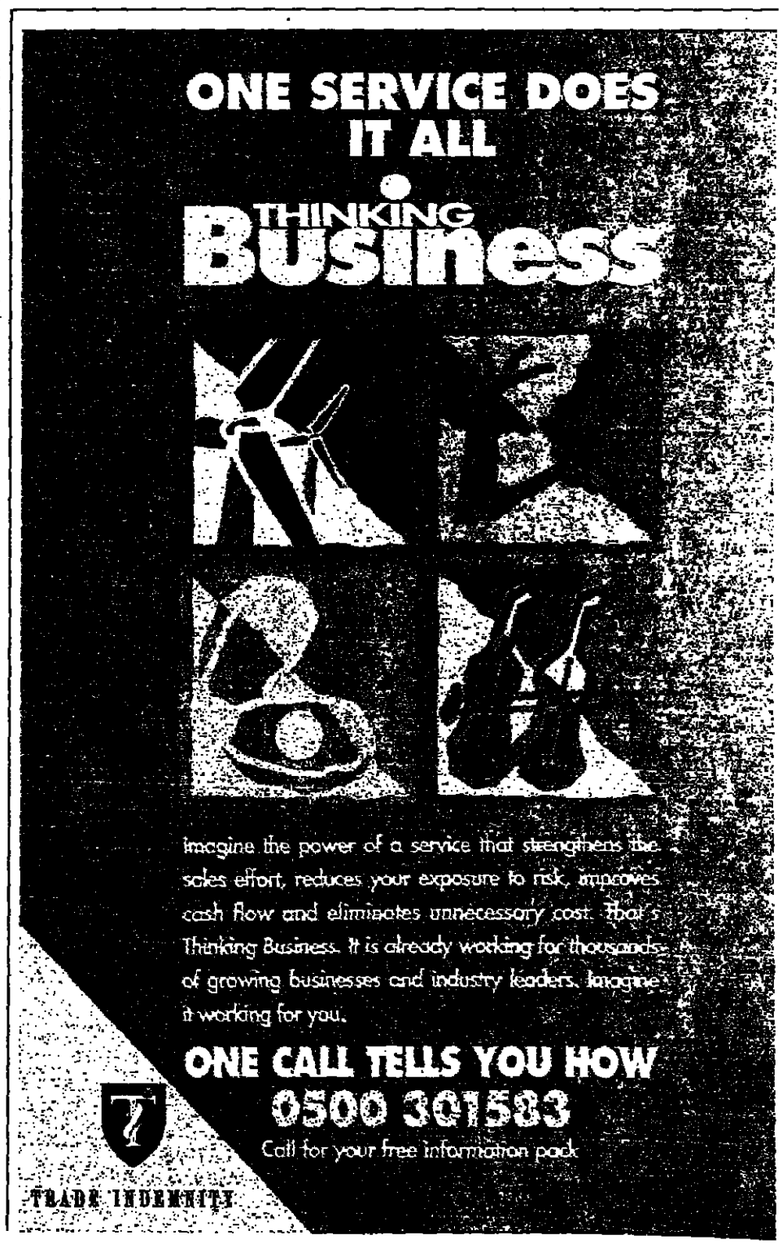
Confirmation of the merger proposals came as Nuclear Electric signed a £14 billion deal to buy fuel and reprocessing services from BNFL, the government company that operates Thorp reprocessing plant at Sellafield, Cumbria.

The fuel deal is designed to cap costs of the early Magnox plants, which could pave the way for privatisation of the more modern plants.

To back its case for privatisation, Nuclear Electric has told ministers a sale could be achieved more quickly, with much higher returns, if it was merged with Scottish Nuclear.

Stripped of its Magnox liabilities, Nuclear Electric, with five gas-cooled reactors and the new Sizewell B pressurised water plant, could fetch £2 billion. If Scottish Nuclear's two gas-cooled plants were added, the sale might realise almost £3 billion.

Power struggle, page 23



Water: I don't Byatt, do you?



MELVYN MARCKUS

Time, I suspect, for Ian Byatt, Director-General of the Office of Water Services, to tiptoe into the limelight. Stephen Littlechild, at Offer, and Clare Spottiswoode, at Ofgas, may have dominated the regulatory stage of late but it would seem that Byatt's date with destiny has finally arrived.

The fickle finger of fate has been influenced not by myself but by Sir Desmond Pitcher, chairman of North West Water. Earlier this week, Sir Desmond let it be known that he felt compelled to distribute £180 million to customers and shareholders over the next five years. Such payments will arrive by way of an annual rebate of around £6.50 to each of North West's 2.8 million customers and a special dividend of 4.75p per share.

Brian Staples, North West's chief executive, declared that the £180 million windfall arose from cost savings achieved on the £2.5 billion capital spending progamme budgeted for the first five years of privatisation. Expectations are that this will reduce the expected increase in domestic water charges this year by some 60 per cent. Before news of North West's largesse, the average household bill was set to rise from £183 to £193. North West also let it be known that the company intends to spend a like sum of £180 million over the next five years on "discretionary measures" such as the "control of sewer flooding".

Byatt, batting off the back foot, warned the industry not to succumb to pressure for substantial dividend increases and stressed that higher payouts should only be funded by increased efficiency. In his words: "While I do not control dividends, I do not expect companies to make decisions which could jeopardise the longer-term interests of the industry." Byatt, not wishing to appear a Littlechild, insisted that the price limits he alighted upon last July are sufficient to meet the industry's long term commercial and environmental obligations.

In the City, thoughts were not necessarily confined to the long term. North West, one of the UK's largest water companies, met a new-found popularity and Thursday saw the price rise 15p to 543p as more than 4 million shares changed hands. By last night, the quote was 549p. Robert Miller-Bakewell, of NatWest Securities, bluntly opined: "I think this is good for shareholders as it will produce higher dividend distribution than was previously expected." By way of contrast, the message from Nigel Hawkins, of ABN Amro-Hoare Govett, was: "NWW is taking some risk in making these promises for the next few years. It will be crucial that the company outperforms the capital expenditure figures."

Shares in Southern, Severn and Yorkshire all edged ahead on hopes that their directors would also feel compelled to deplete their reserves and reduce dividend cover: a sort of Weinstock contra think.

Yorkshire Water's directors, led by chairman Sir Gordon Jones, clearly felt that the opportunity of saying something should not be lost. Thus we learnt that the company continues to "examine carefully the various options that its efficiency achievements give for providing additional benefits to its customers and shareholders". Sir Gordon and his colleagues emphasised (hold on to your water bed) that "no decisions have been made at this time as to the size of those benefits and as to how, and to whom, they should be distributed". Just for good measure, the DTI duly referred the proposed takeover bid by Lyonnaise des Eaux-Dumez for Northumbrian Water to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Lyonnaise already owns North East Water and Essex and Suffolk Water and, evidently, can't wait to control the UK's water supply.

Nigel Griffiths, Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, responded predictably to North West's revelations. He described the rebate as pathetic. Warming to the subject, he dismissed Byatt's dividend warning as "putting the plug in the bath after the water had run out".

Once again, the Opposition has deftly managed not to miskick the ball but miss it completely. What is important, Mr Griffiths, is not the scale of the wretched rebate but whether, if other companies take their cue, the water utilities will be able to fund the capital spending that is required to meet European Community regulations.

Earlier this year, Channel 4's *Dispatches* screened a chilling documentary entitled "Murky Waters", produced and directed by Tim Pritchard. He and his colleagues chose to visit Britain's beaches to discover what else was at the seaside besides the sea. What they discovered were viruses: a myriad of them.

According to *Dispatches*' research, some 220 million gallons of sewage flow into the sea every day. Of this, only 2 per cent is subjected to secondary treatment which removes most but not all bacteria and viruses. Steven Myint, of the University of Leicester, declared: "If you look at the diseases that people get when they go bathing or take part in water sports, they are not bacterial in origin, but viral in origin."

Myint conducted a detailed analysis of not a little of the UK's sea water. In his words: "We found quite high levels of virus in almost all of the beaches and some were significantly higher than others."

Q: Which were the worst? Myint: "Well, the worst was unfortunately the Mecca for water sports enthusiasts which was Newquay, which had much higher levels than most of the other resorts. But levels were quite high in almost all the southern resorts."

Dispatches: "Among the beaches visited, Dr Myint's study reveals that Scarborough had up to 10 astroviruses per litre of sea water, Skegness also had 10. Southern had 100, Blackpool had 1,000 and for Southampton it was 10,000 astroviruses per litre. But it was Newquay that was by far the worst with readings of up to 100,000 astroviruses per litre of sea water.

As Myint puts it: "This poses a very high infectious risk of course." Of course. North West Water emphasises that, out of its 33 designated bathing waters, 13 passed EU standards in 1993, 24 passed last year and 32 are expected to have passed by 1966. Some £500 million is budgeted over six years for its "sea change programme".

This is most gratifying, but while such uncertainty persists, perhaps it would be for the best if North West's largesse does not prove too infectious.

Three-way battle for Southern

A three-way contest is in prospect for control of Southern Business Group, the office equipment company, after Alco Standard of America said it had entered into bid talks with SBG.

The SBG board stressed that shareholders should take no action until Alco's intentions were clarified.

Last week SBG recommended a 70p a share cash offer from Danka Business Systems, worth £67.6 million, in preference to a previously agreed £80.7 million cash and shares offer by Berkeley Business Group. **Tempus, page 24**

Speciality up

Speciality Shops, the retail property investment and management company that came to market last year, reported a net asset value of 141p a share at the end of December, up 5 per cent. Profits were £1.13 million (£6.2 million loss), giving earnings of 6.6p a share (9.1p loss). The 1.28p final is in line with the prospectus forecast.

Kelt cut

Kelt Energy has written down the value of its US oil and gas assets by £30.1 million to reflect reduced estimates of reserves and lower prices. Proved reserves were reduced to 27.64 million barrels (58.24 million). The provision resulted in pre-tax losses of £25.1 million (£5 million profit). Again, there is no dividend.

Dunn joins

Richard Dunn, the outgoing chief executive of Thames Television, is to join News International Television as executive director from April 18. He will report to Sam Chisholm, chief executive of British Sky Broadcasting, of which News International Television owns 40 per cent.

ROBIN MAYES



Ruberoid, the waterproofing specialist, lifted annual pre-tax profits to £8.4 million (£7.1 million) in the first full year since the group's stock market flotation. Pictured, from left, are David Watson, finance director, Ian Macpherson, chief executive, and David Kendall, chairman. A proposed final dividend of 4.2p will give a total of 6p for the year

Borrowing jumps £600m as retail sales rebound

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

CONSUMER borrowing is on a strong uptrend, except for house-buying, in spite of three interest-rate rises, and the prospect of more monetary tightening this quarter.

Bank of England figures, issued yesterday, showed a net £601 million rise in credit advanced to consumers in February, up from January's £527 million rise, consistent with a rebound in retail sales after a post-Christmas lull.

Although the February figure was well below the record £864 million rise in December, City economists said the picture over the past few months revealed confidence in taking on new debt for purchases in almost every sector except housing, which remained flat and likely to stay so.

Yesterday's data made recent forecasts that consumers were becoming warier appear unfounded and suggested that confidence had not been dented by higher interest rates, tax increases or political jitters.

Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, hold their next monetary policy meeting on Wednesday, but are not expected to raise interest rates in the wake of Thursday's surprise rate cut by the Bundesbank and a number of other European central banks.

The February net credit figure beat market forecasts and ran counter to recent signs of slowing retail sales. Adam Cole, economist at James Capel, the broker, said: "The strength of retail sales in the largely non-discretionary areas, such as household goods, suggests this does not represent distress borrowing."

Credit card borrowing rebounded sharply in February, with a £168 million net rise after January's £98 million. But net lending against housing showed only a marginal gain and commitments fell for the third successive month.

Fears that the flat housing market would undermine consumer confidence on other fronts appears unjustified by the diverging trends in borrowing for consumption and housing, Mr Cole said.

Unlike previous upturns, the economic recovery that became established in mid-1992 has been driven by exports and manufacturing growth, with consumers taking a back seat. The credit data indicate, however, that the consumer may be starting to have greater impact.

With the economy growing at a robust 4.2 per cent a year in the final quarter of last year and retail price inflation hitting 3.4 per cent in February, Mr Clarke is expected to have to raise base rates next quarter from the current 6.75 per cent to prevent overheating and the grip on inflation loosening.

Thorn EMI takes loss on sell-off to Racal

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

THORN EMI will be hit by a £32 million exceptional loss after the sale of its sensors division to Racal Electronics.

Racal is paying £17.5 million cash for the sensors business, which manufactures radar, electronic warfare and electronic command systems. The division, which last year made a £1.2 million loss, has net assets of £32.5 million.

The exceptional charge, which includes £14.7 million of goodwill, will be taken in Thorn's accounts for the year to March 31. A group spokesman said it was in line with expectations.

The proposed sale of other parts of its electronics and defence businesses — including missile-fusing systems and electro-optics activities — to Thomson CSF, the French electronics group, was yesterday cleared by the Department of Trade and Industry. Thorn expects a £3 million exceptional gain from the sale.

The latest disposals mean Thorn has sold off virtually all of its unwanted electronics subsidiary. The Microwave Devices business at Hayes, Middlesex, which has turnover of about £10 million, is the sole remaining part. In February, the group closed its Rumbelows chain, and last month it took on the bulk of the Dillons bookstore chain.

Tempus, page 24

Seeboard relaxes shares rule

BY MARTIN WALLER

SEEBOARD, the regional electricity company serving the South East, is asking shareholders for permission to scrap the limitation in its articles of association that restricts any outside shareholder to 15 per cent only.

This dates back to privatisation five years ago and has run in tandem with the Government's "golden share" in the companies to protect them from takeover. The golden share expired at midnight and Seeboard has acted unilaterally in moving to scrap the other obstacle to a bidder.

☐ Manweb is getting out of electricity appliance retailing with the sale to Scottish Power of five well-stocked superstores in its region in Merseyside, Cheshire and North Wales for just £3 million. The other 58 high street sites will cease to sell electrical goods but continue mainly as customer service centres. There will be no compulsory redundancies.

BUSINESS PROFILE

Carsberg asks court to dismantle NBA

THE campaign against the Net Book Agreement (NBA) took a step forward yesterday when Sir Bryan Carsberg, Director-General of Fair Trading, applied to the Restrictive Practices Court to dismantle it. Sir Bryan announced his intention to ask the court to review the NBA, an agreement that prevents retailers from selling books below the publishers' recommended price, last August. It will be the first time the court has looked at the issue in more than 30 years.

In 1962, the court ruled that the agreement was in the public interest. Sir Bryan must now convince it that there has been a material change in the book market since then. Yesterday, the OFT said it would point to changes in printing technology, the growth of wholesaling and the increased number of bookshops to prove its case. While the authorities continue to debate the future of the NBA, many industry observers believe it will die of its own accord. Hodder Headline, one of the biggest publishers, recently announced its voluntary withdrawal from the NBA, and Asda, the supermarket chain is investigating importing bestselling titles from abroad in order to circumvent the agreement. Nevertheless, a large number of publishers continue to defend the NBA, insisting that abolition will lead to higher book prices and fewer bookshops.

Halifax acquisition

HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY has bought Bank of Scotland's 50 per cent stake in the credit card company the two set up in 1988 for £23 million. Bank of Scotland will continue to handle the administration for a fee. A Halifax spokesman said it now had experience in processing and managing a credit card and wanted to run the venture itself.

☐ CUC, the US consumer services company, has bought Credit Card Sentinel, the UK credit card registration and loss and theft notification business, for $22.5 million.

Johnson Fry revival

JOHNSON FRY, the financial services company, has restored the dividend at 2p a share for 1994, the first since 1988. This follows a recovery in profits to £4.12 million before tax last year from losses of £12.48 million previously, when the company incurred a significant charge against the disposal of LJT America. Earnings amounted to 17.9p a share, compared with losses of 103.1p. At the operating level, the restructured business earned £4.1 million, reduced from £11.2 million last time, on turnover of £32.5 million (£83.5 million).

Farnell sells division

FARNELL ELECTRONICS is selling its manufacturing division for £79.9 million, a profit of £28.4 million. The buyer is a company controlled by CINVen, the venture capital group, and likely to involve the existing management. The division, which makes electronic power supplies and test and measurement instruments, made a profit of £7 million in the year to January 29, compared with £3.6 million in the previous year, on turnover of £64.5 million (£52.4 million). Net assets were 25.4 million at the year-end.

Bardon recovers

BARDON GROUP, the quarrying and aggregates company, made a strong recovery last year but is concerned about the impact of the current reduction in UK road expenditure. Pre-tax profits were £19.5 million, compared with losses of £47.9 million previously when the company absorbed an exceptional charge of £60 million against restructuring and write-offs. With earnings of 1.7p a share (12.5p loss), the total dividend is maintained at 2p a share, with an unchanged 1.2p final, due July 14. The shares rose 3p to 31p.

Proudfoot back in black

PROUDFOOT, the management consultancy that raised £9.6 million last year to fund restructuring costs, charged a further provision of £1.9 million in the second half to cover redundancies caused by a continued decline in revenues. However, in 1994 the company returned to the black, earning taxable profits of £11.24 million, compared with restated losses of £11.29 million in the previous 12 months. Earnings were 8.2p a share, against losses of 24.6p. The total dividend is increased to 4p a share from 3.5p, with a 2p final.

Calor plans overseas growth

BY CARL MORTISHED

CALOR GROUP, the bottled gas supplier, is planning further expansion into Asia and Latin America in joint ventures with its majority shareholder SHV, the private Dutch group which also owns a controlling interest in Primagaz of France.

Calor's share of the profits of Pam Gas, its joint venture with Primagaz, SHV and the International Finance Corporation, grew from £0.6 million to £1 million with operations in Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Hamish MacPherson, treasurer, said Calor was pursuing similar opportunities in Thailand, China and India, as well as Argentina and Brazil. "There is a very reasonable chance we will make significant investments," he said. Net cash resources grew to £41 million at the year end in spite of a fall in profits from £51.5 million to £48.8 million because of the mild winter.

Volumes fell 3 per cent because of average temperatures 8 per cent warmer than the previous year. Cylinder gas volumes were badly affected in the second half. The loss in its drinks dispensing systems company was cut by £1.3 million to £1.8 million. The dividend is held at 12.5p.

Tempus, page 24

Oftel asked to define a free market

BY ERIC REGULY

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday accused Don Cruickshank, the industry regulator, of thwarting the move towards deregulation by failing to define his vision of a free and competitive telecoms market.

In a 60-page document written in response to Oftel's recent consultative paper on the future of regulation, BT said: "An explicit vision of the future is vital to any programme of regulatory change. In its absence, there is intervention without direction. We regret Oftel have not set out such a vision for our country."

Oftel's paper showed a desire for minimum regulatory intervention, focusing on supervision, ensuring a market free of anti-competitive practices, rather than regulating matters such as BT's fees to connect competitors' calls to its network.

But BT is worried that Oftel will never allow it to set its own prices as long as it continues to dominate the market. Peter McCarthy-Ward, BT's manager of commercial policy, said: "We would like to know the regulator's terms for withdrawing from its role as a regulator."

For example, BT would like to know how far its market share must decline before Oftel considers the market is truly competitive. Mr Cruickshank declined to comment. An Oftel spokeswoman challenged BT's assertion that he lacked vision. "I would think he had put out a very forward-looking document," she said.

In their responses, both BT and Mercury said they preferred to move to a deregulated market by allowing BT to "rebalance" its prices. Call fees would fall and quarterly line-rental would rise to rise to reflect their true economic costs. Under this scenario, Mercury no longer would have to pay a special charge to help to maintain BT's network.



Cruickshank: accused by BT

The Standard Life Assurance Company Annual General Meeting

The 169th Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held in the Head Office, 3 George Street, Edinburgh on Tuesday 25 April 1995 at 2.30pm.

A member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote. A proxy need not be a member.

By order of the Board of Directors
D M Simpson
Secretary
Edinburgh, 30 March 1995

Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts, including the agenda, by writing to the Customer Service Information Team at PO Box 141, 1 Tanfield, Edinburgh EH3 5RG or by telephoning 0131 - 245 2030. Proxy forms may be similarly obtained by members entitled to vote.

STANDARD LIFE

TOURIST RATES

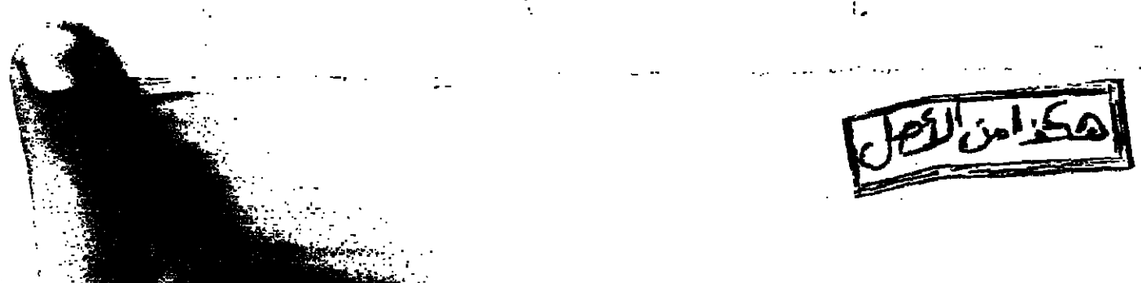
	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.31	2.14
Austria Sch	16.91	15.41
Belgium Fr	49.32	45.99
Canada $	2.352	2.182
Cyprus Cypr	0.761	0.706
Denmark Kr	9.54	8.74
Finland Mrk	7.80	6.65
France Fr	8.33	7.66
Germany Dm	2.41	2.20
Greece Dr	385.00	360.00
Hong Kong $	13.05	12.05
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.87
Israel	5.2767	4.8367
Italy Lira	2855.00	2700.00
Japan Yen	157.50	141.50
Malta	0.505	0.351
Netherlds Gld	2.685	2.455
Norway Kr	10.85	9.85
Portugal Esc	249.00	230.50
S Africa Rd	rel.	5.36
Spain Pta	213.50	200.00
Sweden Kr	12.58	11.78
Switzerland Fr	2.01	1.85
Turkey Lira	rate	84762.0
USA $	1.702	1.573

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
Littlewoods faces change

"Huge changes have to be made. But with executives looking fearfully over their shoulders, the painful decisions desperately needed are unlikely. "The family is making life very difficult for the management," an advisor said..."

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow



REALLY USEFUL GROUP: **Patrick McKenna** and **Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber**

Composer in harmony with corporate captain

Half of the duo writes the notes, the other keeps them flowing into the coffers. Jon Ashworth reports

Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber sits on the sofa at his luxurious London home, bursting with ideas. About churches, and orchestras, and space-age cinemas with church organs rising out of the ground. About enormous theatre complexes in the Nevada desert, and about a glorious home for his works of art.

Over in the West End, the man who decides whether the ideas become reality is probably about to *dash to the airport. Indeed, he may* already be speeding across the Atlantic on Concorde, or on his way back from a meeting in Hong Kong. Such is the whirlwind life of Patrick McKenna, chairman and chief executive of The Really Useful Group.

Barely five years after turning its back on the stock market, Really Useful is poised for great things. Profits have soared by 800 per cent, to £46 million, through the world's insatiable appetite for Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals. The company is venturing into film production, and tailor-made theatres, and records. It has launched a board games division, and is considering a stab at the Channel 5 television franchise.

Buying back his firm from its shareholders set musical knight free to be creative again

All this is music to the ears of Sir Andrew, who had given up on Really Useful by the late Eighties. Formed in 1977 to monitor the standards of his musicals around the world, the company went public a decade later in what proved to be a disastrous move. "It was an absolutely enormous, crashing mistake, because it didn't allow me to really carry on as a composer in the way that I would like to," says Sir Andrew, relaxing in his plush living room, overlooking Eaton Square. "I started to talk to the close friends I had around in the world of finance and said, look, what am I going to do?

"The story ended with Patrick, who had been involved with me for a long time, really as my accountant, saying he felt it should be bought back. So I said, well this is all fine, but if we do that, I want to be left in a situation where I'm not going to have to be worried any more about business. I must be allowed to get on and compose. And that's exactly what we set out to do."

McKenna, who has looked after the composer's financial affairs since the late Seventies, became swept up in his own invention. As head of the media and entertainments group at Touche Ross, the accountancy firm, he dealt with tax matters on behalf of such stars as Annie Lennox, Cliff Richard, Phil Collins and Lord Olivier.

"I suggested that the only way he was going to have control over his own destiny was to buy back the shares held by the public," McKenna recalls. "He thought: you got me into this, you better come on board."

The "marriage", so far, has proved resoundingly successful. Loss-making companies were sold and new management was brought in. Most of the staff at the head office in Tower Street, London, were fired, including Prince Edward, who was quietly ushered out with the rest. PolyGram, the Dutch records group, later paid £80 million for a 30 per cent stake, more than covering the cost of the buy-back. Sir Andrew's contract was renegotiated, giving Really Useful the rights to his entire creative services to the year 2003, on top of the traditional income from royalties on his musicals. "We decided we wanted more of the pie," McKenna says. "That was my job, to put all the pieces together so that we could become an international production company."

Sir Andrew is only too happy with these arrangements. "Frankly, from the day that Patrick set foot in Tower Street, I have not even needed to have an office there," he says. "I don't interfere with the management at all, now. I suppose that, at the end of the day, I do have a right of veto over a very major project, but I very rarely use it."

This suits McKenna just fine. "Andrew has thoroughly enjoyed himself in the last few years because he doesn't really have anything to do with the business," he says. "I've never put him down as a good businessman. He's got a very good instinct for what works commercially, creating shows that have a very, very broad appeal."

The composer, at 47, appears to have entered a happy phase of his life. He has just completed the score to a film musical, *Whistle Down the Wind*, and is hugely excited about the prospects. "We start with the challenge, in the cinema, that there has not been an original film musical for over 30 years, other than the Disney cartoons," he says. "It's done in the first stage and now needs its director. Musicals are hugely collaborative."

Sir Andrew is, of course, very rich, with an estimated £300 million fortune, but appears to have his feet on the ground. His home is steeped in the trappings of wealth — Pre-Raphaelites on the wall, and ornate sculptures — and yet there are glimpses of the person behind the tabloid face. Birthday cards cluster on a mantlepiece. Family photos fight for space in the corner. "The children are having a tea party," he whispers, peeping round the door into the kitchen, where Alastair, three, and William, two, are tucking in.

There is an apartment in the Trump Towers, in New York, and also a country estate in Berkshire and a house in France, but the Lloyd Webbers are usually to be found in London. "Home has become very much Eaton Square now," he says. "We tend to be here most of the time. The house in the country is rather more where I keep the pictures and the collection and everything."

Sir Andrew's third wife, Madeleine, is "a tremendous support", and, one suspects, offers him a healthy antidote to the cloying world of theatre. "I don't," he says, "have a whole kind of clique of showbusiness friends whom I talk endlessly, incestuously, with about what's going on with musicals and say, 'Oh this is happening *dear*', and '*Darling*, this is happening'. I don't have that. It's not around me, and it never really has been. There are a lot of people that I like in the theatre, but I tend to find that it's best to listen to what other people have to say. You always get a much more honest answer."

McKenna is never one to mince his words. Born and raised in Essex, he lives in Brentwood with his wife, Margaret, and their three children (another is on the way). He is working out in the gym by 7am most weekdays, and is rarely home before midnight. Only 38, he is forever hopping on aircraft. So far this year, he has visited New York (twice), Sydney, Melbourne, Singapore, Tokyo, Los Angeles and Las Vegas, and has squeezed in two weeks in Antigua. "It's a very punishing schedule, but we're looking to double the size of the company over the next five years, and that requires me to be hands-on," he says.

The key to future success lies in America, which already provides 45 per cent of Really Useful's income. There are plans to build a three-in-one theatre complex, dubbed "Theatreplex", in Las Vegas — one of Sir Andrew's current themes. "Madeleine and I went there to see *Starlight Express* and were quite staggered by the number of children that were there," he says. "It was fairly blindingly obvious to me that there is a need for a proper complex that is about musicals, and that it would do extremely well."

A new film production company, based in Los Angeles, has $250 million in funding behind it, and is looking to make seven major films in the next few years, starting with *Whistle Down the Wind*. Revenue from purpose-built theatres in Switzerland and Germany will feed the Really Useful pot. "Certainly, I didn't foresee the length of the runs of these musicals," Sir Andrew says. "I think you would have thought two to three years was an extremely good run, certainly in the Seventies."

McKenna says that the pair "understand each other very well", adding: "We have our own shorthand. It definitely has its moments, but it works." They keep in touch by telephone and catch up every couple of weeks over lunch or dinner. "I can't create a show or write a piece of music," McKenna says. "He trusts my judgment on business issues." Sir Andrew agrees, saying: "The suitors come to me with their siren voices, and they go to Patrick with their rather more hardened voices. Finally, he will come back to me with what I know will be the best proposal."

The arrangement leaves the composer free to pursue interests such as making Britain's churches more accessible and encouraging young musicians. "There just hasn't been the new generation of people coming along in the way we would like to see," he says.

Sir Andrew talks of London's need for a new theatre for musicals, perhaps combined with a gallery for his art collection, and of screening a film version of *The Phantom of the Opera* in customised cinemas. He usually bows to McKenna's judgment. "He may come back to me and say, Andrew, your idea is a pipedream, we can't do it. That's kind of how we work."

ALAN WELLER



Man of affairs and music man: Patrick McKenna and Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber "understand each other very well"

Ministers in power struggle over nuclear privatisation

Eager industry chiefs still face opposition, say Ross Tieman and Arthur Leathley

Britain's nuclear industry is being spring cleaned for an early sale. Nuclear Electric yesterday signed a £14 billion contract with BNFL for the supply of fuel and reprocessing services until 2009. The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate will next week clear the 30-year-old Hinkley Point A Magnox plant to work for another decade, paving the way for further life extensions at two sister stations.

The combined effect of these measures will be to cap £7 billion of the £9 billion decommissioning cost of the first-generation Magnox plants, and at the same time increase their ability to generate cash to pay for the clean-up.

If the nuclear industry can succeed in ...niting its financial risks in this way, its burning ambition, privatisation, may be achievable.

Some senior ministers have already been won over by a lobbying campaign of extraordinary intensity. The Cabinet is debating the issue. John Major said last week: "The principal concern is the question of safety. Provided we are satisfied on that, we can look at the prospects of Nuclear Electric moving into the private sector."

Some ministers, however, are warning Mr Major that a nuclear industry privatisation could become an electoral disaster for the Tories. While Conservatives are anxious to press ahead with the £2 billion sale to generate funds for pre-election tax cuts, a report to Mr Major from the Department of Trade and Industry is expected to outline several areas of concern.

Ministers wary of an early sale say that there is a significant risk of alienating the vociferous environmental lobby. They also fear that, with the sale of Railtrack planned for next year, there may be insufficient time to prepare the ground with investors.

"This must be a success in every way. We can't afford to slip up so close to an election," said one minister.

In spite of the present progress, an enormous amount of reorganisation has still to be done if Nuclear Electric is to be offered for sale in spring or autumn 1996. "This is not just a one-day bonanza," said the minister. "Investors want to know that the long-term costs and effects have been thoroughly thought through."

Michael Heseltine, still smarting from his failure to sell the Post Office, is urging a "softly-softly" approach. Colleagues suggest he is prepared to support the sale only if he is given assurances about how Magnox decommissioning costs will be met.

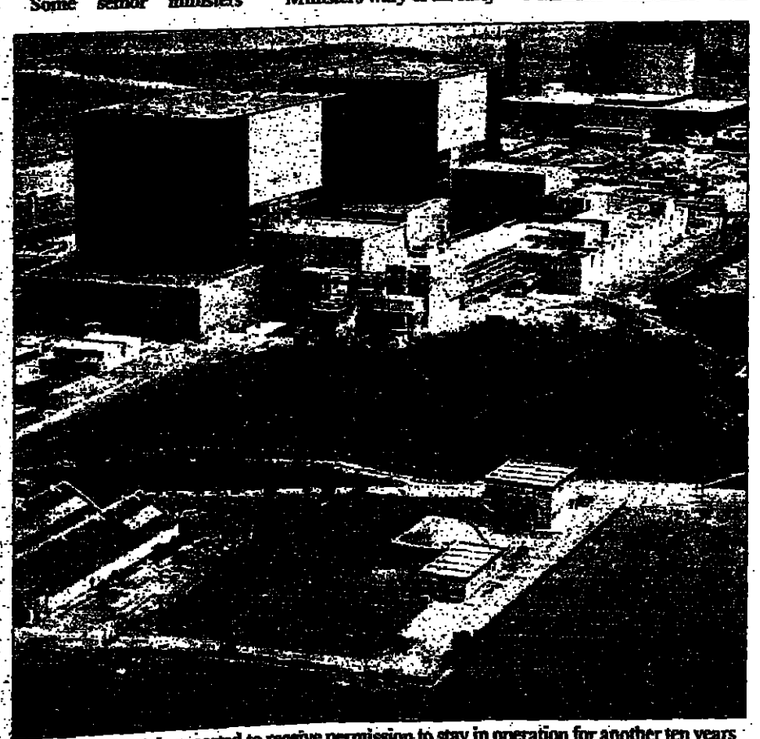
No one pretends that private investors can be persuaded to buy the Magnox stations. Three have already been closed. Nuclear Electric, the largest state reactor company, has six more, designed to last 25 years.

Bradwell in Essex has already received consent to run for 40 years, subject to annual safety checks. Hinkley Point A in Somerset, which celebrated its 30th anniversary of operation yesterday, is about to receive a ten-year extension. Similar consents will be sought for Dungeness B and Sizewell A, now nearly 30.

Because avoidable costs are low, every extra year of operation by these three generates a torrent of cash. But even by projecting an average 37-year life for the Magnox stations, Nuclear Electric calculates a shortfall of up to £2.4 billion if the £9 billion of fuel reprocessing and closures costs are to be met.

The company's response is to propose splitting off the Magnox stations, with their 4,950 employees. If a sale is agreed, they will be left in "GoCo", a public-sector company, generating 8 per cent of United Kingdom electricity. The company's five remaining second-generation gas-cooled reactors, plus the Sizewell B pressurised water station, have long operating lives ahead in which to build up a fund to finance their own decommissioning, as well as pay dividends to investors. They would be privatised, and the proceeds used to top up the inadequate Magnox fund.

The chief proponent of an early sale, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, wants to hand out that cash as tax cuts. This, it would seem, is where Mr Heseltine digs in his heels.



Hinkley Point A is expected to receive permission to stay in operation for another ten years

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0715

STOCK MARKET  PHILIP PANGALOS

Share prices tumble on currency turmoil

RENEWED weakness for the dollar in turbulent currency markets and stronger-than-expected US GDP figures revived fears of a rise in US interest rates, dragging London shares lower as profit-taking wiped out Thursday's German rate cut-inspired gains.

Financial year-end book-squaring, renewed dollar weakness and falls for gilts and futures unsettled an already nervous cash market. Initial heavy falls on Wall Street further dampened sentiment in late London trading. The FT-SE 100 index ended near its lows, closing down 38.3 points to 3,137.9. Second-liners had a softer landing, with the FT-SE 250 slipping 3.9 points to 3,434.7.

Volume, boosted as investors squared their books for the financial year-end, reached 674 million shares.

Dollar-related stocks suffered widespread losses. **SmithKline Beecham 'A'** fell 16p to 478p, **Glaxo** 11p to 706p, **ICI** 19p to 724p, **HSBC** 29p to 698p, **TI Group** 4p to 377p, ***Reuters*** 11½p to 476p and **Vodafone** 6p to 198p.

Things looked brighter for companies *that will* benefit from any cuts in the betting levy which may take place to help compensate those who have suffered losses as a result of competition from the National *Lottery. The companies*, including pools groups, have blamed the National Lottery, which *started in November*, for a significant loss of business in recent months.

There was talk yesterday that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, may be ready to *cut the amount of tax that* pools firms must pay to the Government, with an *amendment to the Finance Bill now* going through the Commons. One report suggested the *Chancellor will cut the pools* levy from 37.5 per cent to 32.5 per cent.

Shares in **Ladbroke** climbed 3½p to 169p, on 5.61 million shares traded, in anticipation of a 5 per cent cut in the Government's betting levy. Elsewhere, **Stanley Leisure** added 5p to 389p and **Zetters** 2p to 108p.

Hopes of future steel price increases *in the UK* and continental Europe prompted further profit upgradings for **British Steel**, ½p firmer at 160½p, after **UBS** raised its estimates on Thursday. *Kleinwort Benson is thought*



Pools companies are hoping for a cut in tax rates

to have lifted its 1995 profit estimate to £510 million from £450 million and to £825 million from £765 million for 1996. Elsewhere in the sector, **ASW Holdings** firmed 2p to 198p.

Lloyds Bank was a lonely bright spot in the banking sector, adding 10p to 616p, after touching 621½p, in *anticipation that Cheltenham &* Gloucester Building Society

for control of **Southern Business Group**, the office equipment and photocopier distributor currently in receipt of bids from **Berkeley Business Group** and **Danka Business Systems**, is hotting up. Southern shares jumped 6p to 77p after Alco Standard of the US entered the fray with a takeover approach.

Danka tumbled 34p to 400p as dealers feared that it may

offer for Southern next week. Berkeley is expected to raise its offer for Southern to the equivalent of at least 80p in cash and shares, with the cash element alone likely to rise from 52p previously to at least the 70p a share level on offer from Danka.

Southern continued to advise shareholders to accept the bid by Danka — until Alco's intentions are clarified.

Elsewhere, **International Communications and Data**, the marketing services and database group, rose 3p to 14p after an agreed £9.4 million bid, worth 14.5p a share, from RR Donnelley. **Continental Foods**, the soft drinks to video tapes group which has a 10.76 per cent stake in ICD, is set to receive £1.03 million, giving a £514,000 surplus over the net book value. Continental Foods rose 5p to 74p.

Drummond Group gained 3p to 32p after Chargeurs, the French conglomerate, which is one of Drummond's largest single shareholders, swapped preference shares for equity effectively at 47p.

Northumbrian Water climbed 6p to 849p on news that the proposed bid by *Lyonnaise des Eaux has been* referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

There were modest, but widespread, gains for other water stocks, bolstered by *hopes that others will follow* **North West Water**, up 6p to 549p, with special dividend *payments*. **Anglian** rose 4p to 479p, **Severn Trent** 5p to 514p, **Thames** 3p to 481p, **Welsh** 3p *to 612p and* **Yorkshire**, expected by many to be the next to pay a special dividend, 1p to 526p.

GILT-EDGED: The decline in the dollar brought down bond markets around the world, while the fall in Bunds dragged gilts even lower, *virtually wiping out Thursday's* gains.

Profit-taking saw the June *series of the long gilt future* close 17 ticks lower at £102²⁷/₃₂, on volume of 53,000 *contracts traded*. Among conventional stocks, losses stretched to £¾ for *longer dated issues*, while index-linked fell by up to £⅞ at the longer end.

□**NEW YORK:** *Shares on* Wall Street recovered from early falls but sentiment *remained negative. By midday* the Dow Jones industrial average was down 17.98 points at 4,154.58.

Unigate rose 6p to 386p as Hoare Govett lifted its profit forecasts after a better-than-expected 36 per cent profits jump at Nutricia, *the Dutch* food group where *Unigate has a 32.6 per cent stake*. Hoare raised its estimate for the year to end-March £4 million to £114 million, with £117 million (£112.5 million) for next year.

members would vote in favour *of the £1.8 billion merger with* the bank. Lloyds shareholders have already approved the proposed deal.

Granada Group was another bright spot, climbing *6p to 560p, as Hoare Govett*, the company's broker, reiterated its buy recommendation *after a recent analyst visit and* a presentation from Granada's management.

On the bid front, the battle

have to raise its 70p per share *offer, which was made a week* earlier. However, Danka has already made a paper profit of *more than £400,000 on the 7.2* million shares it bought in a raid on Southern earlier this week.

Berkeley Business Group, which originally bid in February, *fell 5p to 49p, after this* week's share consolidation, though Berkeley is expected to *improve its cash and paper*

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Fisons	178p	+12p	Persistent bid speculation
Bowthorpe	335p	+35p	Better-than-expected profits
Intnl Comm & Data	14p	+3½p	Agreed bid worth 14.5p
Nurdin & Peacock	185p	+14p	Speculative interest
Southern Business	77p	+8p	Higher bid expected next week
British Steel	160½p	+6½	Profit upgrades
Redland	436p	-21p	Dividend cut
Marley	127p	-9p	Rights issue at 112p
Jeyes Group	146p	-18p	Slide into red, Jimmy Moir resigns

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	4154.58 (-17.98)
S&P Composite	500.19 (-2.03)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	16139.95 (-372.27)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	8587.72 (-88.45)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	393.40 (-6.57)
Sydney:	
AO	1906.6 (+22.0)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	1922.59 (+4.13)
Singapore:	
Straits	2093.12 (-8.71)
Brussels:	
General	6859.35 (+32.71)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1859.48 (-33.52)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	581.70 (-4.90)
London:	
FT 30	2407.4 (-26.2)
FT 100	3137.9 (-38.3)
FT-SE Mid 250	3434.7 (-3.9)
FT-SE-A 350	1558.4 (-15.1)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1254.30 (-13.97)
FT A All-Share	1538.64 (-13.82)
FT Non Financials	1661.00 (-13.98)
FT Fixed Interest	110.67 (+0.19)
FT Govt Secs	91.57 (-0.41)
Bargains	37152
SEAQ Volume	760.3m
USM (Datastrm)	148.92 (+0.49)
US$	1.6280 (+0.0315)
German Mark	2.2271 (-0.0264)
Exchange Index	85.3 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.2053
£:SDR	1.0363
RPI	146.9 Feb (3.4%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Albright & Wilson (150)	164	+½
Beale	180	...
Colleagues	161	+6
Dailywin (128)	130	...
Datrontech (130)	136	...
Expro Intl (175)	175	+½
Geared Inc Inv C (100)	99½	-½
Golden Rose Cms (135)	116	-1
HTR Inc/Gth Split (100)	101	...
-ditto- Split Div Pf (100)	105	...
Inv Capital Wts	19	...
Inv Tst of Inv Tsts	84	...
Inv Tst of Inv Tsts Wts	56	...
Melrose Energy Wts	3½	...
Mont UK Smlr Co's (100)	95	...
-ditto- Wts	43	...
Nat Power (p/p) (476)	164	+2½
PTS Group (90)	92	...
PowerGen (p/p) (512)	184	...
Schrdr Inc Gwth Fd Uts	516	...
Scot Ornt Smlr Co (100)	95½	+½
-ditto- Wts	41	+1
Superframe Group (50)	42	...
Superframe Wts	6	...
Throg Dual Zero Div Pf	103	...
Zotefoams (145)	175	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Acorn Computer n/p (80)	5½	...
Beauford n/p (28)	¼	...
Horace Sml App n/p (90)	42	...
Marley n/p (112)	15	-1
Rhino Group n/p (8)	¼	...
Unit Group n/p (39)	1½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Bowthorpe	335p (+11p)
Ulster TV	669p (+11p)
Jeff Smurfit	367p (+11p)
Sothebys	750p (+12p)
FALLS:	
ICI	724p (-19p)
Hutch Whamp	268p (-15p)
Tadpole Tech	209p (-10p)
Gen Accident	565p (-18p)
Thomson Corp	785p (-20p)
Glaxo	706p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS

Calor's early spring

GLOBAL warming looks like the last straw for Calor Group. While the rest of us were bemused by the appearance of spring flowers in February, Calor Group's bottled gas *salesman were gnashing their teeth. Volumes* were down by 11 per cent in the second half last year and the first quarter of 1995 looks equally bad.

Things would be much worse but for Calor's prescient decision to cut costs in 1993: while volumes plunged and prices fell, Calor's profits from liquid petroleum gas sales were only 9 per cent below the previous year.

Unfortunately, Calor also had a mixed story to tell elsewhere. Its investments in new businesses have yet to pay off. Pam Gas, the Eastern European venture with SHV, is making money but Calor has yet to see any dividends. Likewise, drinks dispensing is in start-up mode and making losses, while Calor's flirtation with natural gas will take years to show a return.

If the world is warming up, Calor may be right to target markets in the Southern Hemisphere where bottled gas is used for cooking rather than heating. Moreover, such *markets* are likely *to be less interesting* for mains gas suppliers which need bigger volumes to justify their investment in laying pipes.

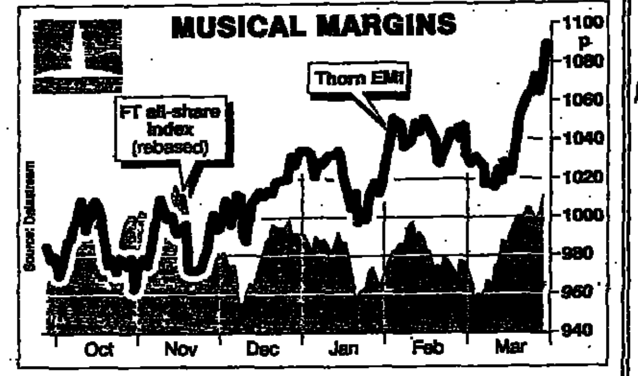
Calor, with its majority shareholder SHV, has the experience and financial clout to be successful overseas but investors who are looking for short-term performance would be better off selling. SHV seems to have big investment plans for its adopted child and it is in no mood to encourage Calor to raise the dividend yet.

Thorn EMI

YESTERDAY'S sale of the sensors business and clearance of the deal with Thomson CSF means Thorn has reached the end of its disposals and can concentrate on its core activities of music, rental and music retail.

The £32 million exceptional hit is hardly small but it is broadly in line with what the market was expecting and is a price worth paying as it allows Thorn to rid itself once and for all of its unwanted electronics subsidiary. In the past few months, Thorn has *jettisoned* businesses with £170 million of turnover with one £10 mil*lion business remaining*. A side-effect of all this corporate activity will be that the *results for the year to March 31* will be littered with exceptionals. On top of yes*terday's £32 million charge*, there is the not insignificant exceptional item relating to the closure of the Rumbelows chain. Thorn originally estimated this would be about £116 million, but after the sale of a chunk of stores to Escom, the German retailer, last month, this figure is likely to fall to about £100 million.

Exceptionals aside, the longer-term prospects for Thorn look promising. There is potential to raise music margins to the targeted 16 per cent, *HMV is* progressing well and there has been some recovery in the rental division. Now *that* the market has come to terms with the decision to shelve demerger plans, *the shares* should outperform.



Northumbrian

THE 68,000 shareholders in *Northumbrian Water, 67,500* of whom have an average of 178 shares each, will need to be *patient. If past experience* is anything to go by, an eventual takeover by *Lyonnaise des Eaux could* be a long time coming. The precedent is the 1989 *approach for Three Valleys by* the other French water concern, Générale des Eaux. *Started in September 1989*, this took almost 11 months before the French took *control*.

If the Monopolies Commission, by early July, allows the bid through, *it will do so* after quantifying what benefits should flow to consumers. *The Secretary of State* will then have to agree with Ofwat, the water regulator, *just how those benefits* should be achieved, whether by adjustment of the pricing *regime or customer rebates*. This took three months in the case of Three Valleys, but *with the 1994 review and the* data on Northumbrian still relatively fresh, that period *could perhaps be cut to a* month.

The Secretary of State then *has to make up his mind*, of course, which for some reason tends to take another *month*. On this analysis, we are into September before Lyonnaise can formally bid. The EC, which graciously stepped aside to allow the MMC the first crack of the *regulatory whip, then steps* in again with its own one-month competition review. *Investors* can speculate whether a privatised regulator would be more efficient.

Southern Business

FOR a company with flattish earnings prospects this year *and a history of run-ins* with regulators, Southern Business Group is attracting an *impressive list of bidders*.

Alco Standard, the latest to enter the fray, has a market *worth of some $4 billion* and claims a large share of the US copier market. In 1993, Alco *moved into* the UK copier market with the takeover of Erskine House and if it *succeeds in* acquiring SBG, its market share will double and at the same time pocket some £9 million of SBG's cash. Alco's intervention will be distressing for Berkeley Business Group which needs to buy SBG and is rumoured to be considering an increased offer to outbid the 70p in cash offered by Danka. The latter's bid puts SBG on an *exit multiple* of just over 13 times, not far from the market average.

If Alco bids, its best strategy would be to secure firm irrevocable commitments from *SBG's directors who own* 8 per cent and the George Stuart trust which has about 14 *per cent. That might* require a 10 per cent premium to the offer on the table but would give *Alco an insurance policy* in case a rival launches a silly bid.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

May	940-939	Jul	1027-1020
Jul	957-956	Sep	1042-1035
Sep	972-970	Dec	1054-1053
Dec	986-985	Mar	unq
Mar	1007-1006		
May	1016-1014		Volume: 43963

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	3055-3054	Jan	2915-2905
Jul	3007-3003	Mar	2900-2885
Sep	2962-2961	May	unq
Nov	2920-2915		Volume: 2060

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	322.4-21.3
Spot 380.0		Mar	318.0-16.9
May	376.0-75.6	May	317.9-16.1
Aug	364.0-63.6	Aug	316.9-14.1
Oct	332.8-31.7		Volume: 1147

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 30

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	90.72	131.24	126.52
(+/-)	-1.41	-1.78	+2.48
Eng/Wales:	90.77	131.49	126.62
(+/-)	-1.43	-1.55	+2.67
(%)	-15.0	-22.0	+3.0
Scotland:	85.75	130.39	126.15
(+/-)	+0.58	-2.58	+1.76
(%)	-21.0	-15.0	+10.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.05	+0.05
Brent 15 day (May)	17.50	n/c
Brent 15 day (Jun)	17.25	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (May)	19.20	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	19.00	+0.05

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 183 (+1)	O: 185 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	157 (+1)	159 (+1)
Non EEC IH May	154 (n/c)	155 (n/c)
Non EEC IH Jun	154 (+1)	155 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	97 (+1)	99 (+1)
Naphtha	169 (-1)	171 (-1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Apr	155.00-55.25	Jul	152.25-52.75
May	152.75-53.00	Aug	153.50-54.00
Jun	152.00-52.25		Vol: 16374

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	17.50-17.51	Aug	16.92 BID
Jun	17.23-17.24	Sep	16.91 SLR
Jul	17.03 BID		Vol: 25232

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	115.10	May	109.75
Jul	116.05	Sep	106.60
Sep	101.85	Nov	101.70
Nov	102.85	Jan	104.00
Jan	104.85	Mar	105.75
Volume: 367		Volume: 0	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	309.0	295.0
May	349.0	343.0
Jul	unq	unq
		Volume: 86

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Apr 122.75-123.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 95	2131	2090	2119
May 95	2062	2010	2040
Jul 95	1860	1815	1860
Oct 95	1830	1810	1830

Vol: 202 lots Open interest: 4568 Index 2204 -8

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2995.0-2996.0	2935.0-2936.0	248950
Lead ($/tonne)	592.00-593.00	606.50-607.00	113300
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1042.0-1043.0	1066.0-1067.0	342925
Tin ($/tonne)	5770.0-5780.0	5815.0-5825.0	25780
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1871.5-1872.0	1879.0-1880.0	1235325
Nickel ($/tonne)	7660.0-7670.0	7790.0-7795.0	54960

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Dom	500	31	49	47	1	15	16
(*529½)	550	3	12	22	22	39	42
Argyll	280	11	19	24	4	13	16
(*287)	300	2	10	15	15	25	28
ASDA	70	5	8	9	0	2	3
(*74½)	80	0	3	5	6	7	9
Boots	500	12	24	34	5	19	22
(*509)	550	0	5	14	42	54	54
Br Airways	390	21	31	39	2	13	17
(*408½)	420	4	16	24	15	29	33
BP	420	12	24	32	4	13	17
(*429)	460	0	7	15	32	37	41
Br Steel	160	4	10	13	3	7	10
(*160½)	190	0	2	6	19	21	22
C & W	360	29	38	45	0	8	12
(*385)	390	7	19	27	9	20	25
CU	493	50	—	—	0	—	—
(*542)	543	11	—	—	12	—	—
ICI	700	29	51	61	4	15	26
(*724½)	750	3	25	35	29	38	51
Kingfishr	420	38	41	48	1	12	16
(*457½)	460	5	16	26	18	30	35
Land Sec	550	45	52	56	0	9	12
(*593½)	600	7	17	26	12	33	35
M & S	390	28	32	40	0	7	11
(*417)	420	3	14	22	8	19	24
Nat West	500	35	50	58	1	10	18
(*532½)	550	4	22	31	21	32	41
Sainsbury	420	12	21	31	3	15	19
(*427)	460	0	6	14	33	41	44
Shell	700	14	35	48	5	16	22
(*708)	750	0	12	23	42	44	50
Smkl Bch	460	22	34	44	3	12	18
(*477)	500	3	14	25	24	33	39
Storehse	220	11	17	21	1	5	7
(*229½)	240	1	7	11	11	16	17
Trafalgar	50	5	9	10	0	2	2
(*54½)	60	0	3	6	6	7	7
Unilever	1200	30	60	91	8	24	33
(*1219½)	1250	7	40	62	36	49	56
Zeneca	850	30	58	72	8	24	34
(*869)	900	7	33	46	35	49	59
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Grnd Met	390	18	26	34	6	13	16
(*400)	420	4	12	19	23	30	31
Ladbroke	160	11	18	21	2	5	8
(*169)	190	3	8	12	13	16	18
Utd Bisc	330	14	26	32	9	15	19
(*332½)	360	5	14	19	29	33	36

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
BAA	450	23	—	—	1	—	—
(*470½)	475	6	—	—	10	—	—
Thames W	460	23	34	37	2	16	20
(*480)	500	2	13	19	21	40	43
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
BAT Ind	420	28	40	46	5	15	19
(*440½)	460	6	19	27	27	36	39
BTR	300	31	38	41	1	[illegible]	5
(*327½)	330	9	18	22	10	14	20
Br Aero	448	32	—	—	[illegible]	—	—
(*470½)	487	11	—	—	25	—	—
Br Telcm	390	13	21	24	9	18	21
(*391½)	420	2	9	12	29	38	40
Cadbury	409	39	50	—	1	5	—
(*443½)	447	11	24	—	12	19	—
Guinness	460	11	25	30	14	20	23
(*460)	500	1	9	14	46	48	50
GEC	280	19	25	27	2	7	10
(*295)	300	7	13	16	9	17	20
Hanson	220	14	18	21	2	5	8
(*232)	240	3	8	11	11	15	18
LASMO	160	9	13	17	5	8	9
(*161½)	180	2	5	9	19	20	21
Lucas	180	18	24	27	2	5	9
(*196½)	200	6	12	16	10	14	18
Pilkngtn	160	8	11	14	3	7	9
(*163½)	180	1	3	5	17	20	21
Prudential	300	16	20	30	5	9	13
(*310)	330	3	12	16	22	25	28
Redland	420	22	31	37	13	18	25
(*435½)	460	4	15	20	39	43	48
R-Royce	140	21	25	27	0	2	4
(*159½)	160	6	12	15	6	9	11
Tesco	260	11	16	20	6	10	13
(*267)	280	2	7	11	20	22	24
Vodafone	180	21	25	30	1	4	7
(*198½)	200	7	13	19	8	12	15
Williams	330	15	20	24	9	13	19
(*340)	360	2	8	12	30	32	36

FT-SE INDEX (*3137)

	3000	3050	3100	3150	3200	3250
Calls						
Apr	148	105	67	39	19	8
May	169	131	96	67	45	28
Jun	184	148	116	87	65	45
Jul	208	172	142	113	90	69
Dec	279	—	218	—	167	—
Puts						
Apr	6	14	26	47	77	120
May	18	30	45	70	95	129
Jun	30	44	62	83	111	143
Jul	45	59	79	100	127	157
Dec	84	—	122	—	169	—

Series		Calls Jun	Sep	Dec	Puts Jun	Sep	Dec
Abby Nat	460	26	36	44	11	19	21
(*469½)	500	5	17	25	34	40	42
Amstrad	150	28	—	—	1	—	—
(*174½)	175	12	—	—	8	—	—
Barclays	600	40	53	64	12	23	28
(*630)	650	15	28	39	38	49	53
Blue Circ	280	20	27	32	8	14	17
(*297)	300	9	17	22	19	24	27
Br Gas	280	12	17	20	9	12	17
(*286½)	300	3	9	12	23	25	29
Dixons	220	18	20	24	5	11	13
(*229½)	240	9	10	14	17	23	23
Forte	220	13	17	21	5	9	12
(*228½)	240	4	8	12	18	20	23
Hillsdwn	180	8	11	15	9	11	13
(*185)	200	1	4	7	24	25	26
Lonrho	140	16	19	23	3	5	7
(*151½)	160	6	9	13	12	15	17
Sears	100	6	9	10	3	4	5
(*104½)	110	1	4	6	9	10	11
Thm Emi	1050	70	82	93	11	29	35
(*1099½)	1100	38	51	65	29	52	58
Tomkins	220	21	25	28	3	8	10
(*235½)	240	9	14	18	11	17	19
TSB	220	25	31	34	4	8	9
(*239)	240	12	19	22	11	16	17
Wellcome	1000	55	61	—	1	4	—
(*1051)	1050	20	24	—	11	18	—
Series		**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**
Glaxo	700	16	42	56	11	27	42
(*710)	750	2	20	33	48	57	71
HSBC	700	19	49	65	16	36	50
(*701½)	750	4	28	43	51	65	78
Reuter	460	17	37	47	4	13	19
(*476)	500	0	17	27	26	34	40
Series		**May**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**May**	**Jul**	**Oct**
Royal Ins	280	15	23	27	6	11	16
(*287)	300	6	13	15	16	22	26
Series		**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**
Fisons	160	21	27	31	4	7	9
(*178)	180	10	16	21	13	16	19
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Eastern Gp	550	32	47	57	10	29	35
(*569)	600	9	23	34	36	58	63
Series		**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**
Natl Pwr	420	21	27	34	16	20	22
(*428)	460	5	11	18	44	46	47
Scot Pwr	300	29	34	38	6	12	13
(*320½)	330	11	18	22	19	28	27

March 31, 1995 Tot: 28992 Call: 13372 Put: 15620 FT-SE Calls: 3247 Puts: 7443

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Jun 95	3200.0	3200.0	3146.0	3156.0	14474
Previous open interest: 66186	Sep 95	3194.0	3194.0	3194.0	3180.0	25
FT-SE 250	Jun 95	3456.0	3456.0	3456.0	3456.0	12
Previous open interest: 4358	Sep 95					0
Three Month Sterling	Jun 95	92.83	92.87	92.72	92.76	28026
Previous open interest: 407796	Sep 95	92.42	92.46	92.30	92.33	17037
	Dec 95	92.08	92.10	91.94	91.97	9713
Three Mth Eurodollar	Jun 95				93.48	0
Previous open interest: 1179	Sep 95				93.23	0
Three Mth Euro DM	Jun 95	95.15	95.30	95.15	95.25	58154
Previous open interest: 727350	Sep 95	94.94	95.13	94.94	95.02	64664
Long Gilt	Jun 95	102-09	102-09	102-16	102-27	55295
Previous open interest: 50667	Sep 95				102-20	0
Japanese Govnt Bond	Jun 95	114.56	115.00	114.40	114.97	3457
	Sep 95				113.81	0
German Gov Bd Bund	Jun 95	91.90	92.01	91.52	91.76	161894
Previous open interest: 176345	Sep 95	91.44	91.44	91.20	91.26	504
Three month ECU	Jun 95	93.27	93.29	93.17	93.20	2033
Previous open interest: 15716	Sep 95	93.20	93.21	93.12	93.16	338
Euro Swiss Franc	Jun 95	96.41	96.52	96.41	96.48	4011
Previous open interest: 37605	Sep 95	96.31	96.43	96.31	96.38	765
Italian Govnt Bond	Jun 95	94.45	94.50	93.15	93.47	44002
Previous open interest: 46502	Sep 95				92.82	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¾ Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O'night high: 6½ Low 5 Week fixed: 6¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6¼; 3 mth 6¼. Sell: 2 mth 6¼; 3 mth: 6¼.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7¼-7	7¾-7½
Interbank	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7¼-7	7¾-7½

Overnight: open 6¼ close 5¾

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	7	7½
Sterling CDs	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs	6.04	n/a	6.17	6.40	6.74
Building Society CDs	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS: Applies: £3,029m; allotted: £900m; Bids: £98.475% received: 85%; Last week: £98.475% received: 59%; Avge rate: £6.1134% last wk £6.0805%; Next week: £900m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc	5-7	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	9-7
Swiss Franc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $385.90-386.30 Close: $391.80-392.30 High: $396.25-396.75 Low: $385.00-385.50 AM: $386.55 PM: $392.00

Krugerrand: $393.00-395.00 (£241.50-243.50)

Platinum: $434.35 (£265.90) **Silver:** $5.28 (£3.245) **Palladium:** $174.50 (£107.90)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Mar 31	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4970-2.5191	2.4870-2.4934	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Brussels	45.61-46.26	45.61-45.74	5-8ds	14-4pr
Copenhagen	8.8120-8.8910	8.8120-8.8320	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Dublin	0.9961-1.0007	0.9967-0.9999	par-4ds	2-8ds
Frankfurt	2.2256-2.2506	2.2256-2.2317	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Lisbon	234.33-237.60	234.33-235.12	82-92ds	246-277ds
Madrid	204.50-206.26	204.84-205.26	44-54ds	155-175ds
Milan	2746.40-2778.30	2768.40-2778.30	8-12ds	28-35ds
Montreal	2.2506-2.2763	2.2717-2.2763	0.31-0.36ds	0.65-0.74ds
New York	1.6076-1.6270	1.6250-1.6270	0.03-0.01pr	0.14-0.09pr
Oslo	9.9210-10.0150	9.9630-9.9840	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	7.7700-7.8670	7.7700-7.7880	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Stockholm	11.9030-11.9970	11.9680-11.9970	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Tokyo	140.37-142.37	140.55-140.89	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Vienna	15.58-15.84	15.76-15.80	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Zurich	1.8255-1.8543	1.8285-1.8342	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr

Source: Extel Premium = pr Discount = ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3768-1.3777
Austria	9.71-9.72
Belgium (Com)	28.38-28.39
Canada	1.4010-1.4015
Denmark	5.4832-5.4852
France	4.8420-4.8430
Germany	1.3823-1.3828
Hong Kong	7.7317-7.7327
Ireland	1.6163-1.6173
Italy	1702.0-1702.7
Japan	87.20-87.30
Malaysia	2.5335-2.5345
Netherlands	1.5485-1.5495
Norway	6.1965-6.1995
Portugal	146.00-146.10
Singapore	1.4115-1.4125
Spain	127.05-127.25
Sweden	7.4043-7.4118
Switzerland	1.1404-1.1424

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6155-1.6182
Australia dollar	2.2236-2.2280
Bahrain dinar	0.600-0.612
Brazil real*	1.4668-1.4711
China yuan	12.75 Buy
Cyprus pound	*0.7078-0.7169*
Finland markka	6.9611-6.9861
Greece drachma	361.00-364.71
Hong Kong dollar	12.4813-12.4906
India rupee	50.19-51.15
Indonesia rupiah	3631.90-3644.66
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4773-0.4891
Malaysia ringgit	4.0891-4.0932
New Zealand dollar	2.4785-2.4839
Pakistan *rupee*	50.03 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0888-6.0980
Singapore dollar	2.2782-2.2812
S Africa rand (com)	5.8043-5.8164
U A E dirham	5.9602-5.9725

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	1,100	Legal & Gn	803
ASDA Gp	9,000	Lloyds Bk	6,700
Abbey Natl	2,300	MEPC	268
Alld Dom	1,100	Marks Spr	5,000
Argyll Gp	2,300	NatWst Bk	3,800
Arjo Wiggn	829	Nat Power	3,200
AB Foods	552	Nth Wst W	1,100
BAA	2,200	P & O	2,400
BAT Inds	6,900	Pearson	1,800
BOC	627	PowerGen	2,700
BP	6,900	Prudential	3,900
BTR	6,100	RMC	382
BT	13,000	RTZ	1,400
Bk of Scot	1,700	Rank Org	2,000
Barclays	3,300	Reckitt Col	691
Bass	2,100	Redland	4,400
Blue Circle	2,800	Reed Intl	1,100
Boots	2,800	Rentokil	2,000
Bowater	2,400	Reuters	3,600
Brit Aero	1,500	Rolls Royce	7,200
Brit Airwys	7,100	Ryl Ins	508
Brit Gas	7,400	Ryl Bk Scot	1,700
Brit Steel	9,100	Sainsbury	1,700
Burmah Cstl	193	Schroders	652
Cable Wire	7,200	Scot & New	2,000
Cadbury	2,500	Scot Power	707
Caradon	2,100	Sears	5,200
Carlton Cms	959	Svrn Trent	1,700
Cm Union	3,300	Shell Trans	4,100
Courtaulds	1,600	Siebe	1,700
De La Rue	1,300	Smkl Bch	4,300
Eastern Elec	874	Smith Nph	5,300
Enterpr Oil	1,300	Sthern Elec	346
Forte	3,200	Std Chartd	2,700
GKN	3,500	Sun Allnce	3,000
GRE	964	TI Gp	1,600
GUS	600	TSB	2,200
Gen Acc	1,400	Tate & Lyle	652
Gen Elec	5,000	Tesco	3,200
Glaxo	6,300	Thames W	932
Granada	1,600	Thrn EMI	1,900
Grand Met	5,500	Tomkins	1,900
Guinness	3,800	Unilever	2,000
HSBC	4,500	Utd Bisc	1,700
Hanson	8,300	Vodafone	6,700
ICI	1,600	Warburg	617
Inchcape	3,500	Whitbread	1,300
Kingfisher	1,300	Wilms Hld	1,100
Ladbroke	5,600	Wolseley	1,100
Land Secs	741	Zeneca	2,800

WALL STREET

	Mar 31 midday	Mar 30 close
AMP Inc	36	36
AMR Corp	65	65
AT & T	52	52
Abbott Labs	36	36
Advanced Micro	33	34
Aetna Life	56	56
Ahmanson (HF)	18	18
Air Prod & Chem	50	51
Albertson's	32	32
Alcan Alumnm	26	26
Alco Standard	73	73
Allied Signal	38	39
Alum Co of Am	41	42
Amax Gold Inc	5	5
Amerada Hess	49	48
Amer Brands	39	39
Amer El Power	31	31
Amer Express	35	35
Amer Genl Corp	32	32
Amer Home Pr	72	72
Amer Intl	104	104
Amer Stores	25	25
Ameritech	41	42
Amoco	63	62
Anheuser-Busch	58	58
Apple Computer	35	35
Archer Daniels	18	18
Armco	7	7
Armstrong Wrld	45	46
Asarco	26	26
Ashland Oil	35	35
Atl Richfield	114	114
Auto Data Pro	62	63
Avery Dennison	40	40
Avon Products	60	60
Baker Hughes	20	20
Baltm Gas & El	23	23
Banc One	28	27
BankAmerica	48	49
Bank of NY	32	33
Bankers Tr NY	52	52
Barnett Banks	45	45
Bausch & Lomb	35	35
Baxter Intl	32	33
Becton Dicknsn	54	54
Bell Atlantic	53	53
Bell Industries	21	21
BellSouth	59	59
Black & Decker	28	28
Block (H&R)	43	43
Boeing	52	53
Boise Cascade	35	34
Bristol Myrs Sq	61	62
Browning Ferris	33	33
Brunswick	20	20
Burlington Nthn	59	60
CBS	63	64
CNA Financial	76	78
CPC Intl	54	55
CSX	78	78
Campbell Soup	48	49
Can Pacific	14	15
Cpl Cities ABC	88	88
Carolina Pwr	26	27
Caterpillar	55	56
Central & SW	24	24
Champion Intl	43	43
Chase Manhat	35	36
Chemical Bk	37	38
Chevron Corp	47	47
Chrysler	42	42
Chubb Corp	79	79
Cigna Corp	75	75
Citicorp	42	42
Clorox	60	60
Coastal Corp	28	28
Coca Cola	56	58
Colgate-Palmolive	65	65
Columbia Gas	29	28
Compaq Comp	34	34
Comp Ass Int	59	60
Conagra	33	33
Conrail	55	56
Cons Edison	27	27
Cons Nat Gas	38	38
Cooper Inds	38	38
Corning Inc	36	36
Crown Cork	43	43
Dana Corp	25	25
Dayton Hudson	72	74
Deere	81	80
Delta Air Lines	57	56
Deluxe Corp	28	28
Detroit Edison	27	27
Digital Equip	37	36
Dillard Dept St	27	27
Disney (Walt)	55	54
Dominion Res	36	36
Donnelley (RR)	34	35
Dover Corp	63	63
Dow Chemical	73	73
Dow Jones	37	37
Dresser	21	21
Duke Power	38	38
Dun & Bradstreet	52	52
Du Pont	60	61
Eastman Kodak	53	53
Eaton Corp	54	55
Emerson Elec	66	66
Engelhard Corp	29	28
Enron Corp	33	32
Entergy	20	21
Ethyl Corp	10	10
Exxon	66	66
FMC Corp	60	60
FPL Group	35	35
Federal Express	68	69
Fed Nat Mtge	81	82
First Chicago	50	50
First Interstate	78	78
First Union Rlty	7	7
Fleet Fin Grp	32	32
Fluor Corp	47	48
Ford Motor	27	27
GTE Corp	33	34
Gannett	53	53
Gap Inc Del	34	34
Gen Dynamics	46	46
Gen Electric	54	54
Gen Mills	60	60
Gen Motors	44	44
Gen Reinsurance	132	132
Gen Signal	36	36
Genuine Parts	39	39
Georgia Pac	81	80
Gillette	81	81
Glaxo ADR	22	22
Goodrich (BF)	44	44
Goodyear Tire	36	37
Grace (WR)	52	53
Gt Atl Pac Tea	22	22
Great Wstn Fin	18	18
Halliburton	36	36
Harcourt General	39	39
Heinz (HJ)	38	39
Hercules	46	47
Hershey Foods	51	51
Hewlett Packard	119	119
Hilton Hotels	77	75
Home Depot	43	44
Homestake Mng	18	18
Honeywell	37	37
Household Intl	43	44
Houston Inds	37	38
Humana	25	25
ITT Corp	105	107
Illinois Tool	48	48
Illinova	22	23
INCO	27	27
Ingersoll Rand	32	32
Inland Steel	27	28
Intel Corp	86	85
IBM	83	82
Intl Flav & Fr	51	51
Intl Paper	75	75
James River Va	25	25
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	58	60
Kellogg	58	59
Kerr-McGee	50	49
Kimberly-Clark	52	52
Kmart	13	13
Knight-Ridder	56	57
Lilly (Eli)	73	73
Limited Inc	22	22
Lin Brdcstng	121	121
Lincoln Nat	40	41
Litton	35	35
Liz Claiborne	17	17
Lockheed Martin	52	51
Louisiana Pac	27	27
MCI Comm	20	20
Marriott Intl	34	34
Marsh & McLen	81	82
Masco Corp	27	27
May Dept St	37	37
Maytag Corp	17	18
McDonalds	34	34
McDonnell D	55	55
McGraw Hill	72	72
Mead Corp	54	54
Medtronic	68	68
Mellon Bk	40	41
Melville Corp	36	37
Merck Inc	42	42
Merrill Lynch	42	42
Minnesota Mine	57	58
Mobil Corp	90	90
Monsanto	79	79
Morgan (JP)	60	61
Motorola Inc	54	55
Natl Semi	17	17
Natl Service Ind	26	26
Navistar Intl	12	13
NBD Bancorp	32	32
NY Times A	23	23
Newmont Mng	42	42
Niag Mohawk	13	13
Nike B	74	74
NL Industries	12	12
Noram Energy	7	7
Nordstrom	40	40
Norfolk Sthrn	66	67
Nthn State Pwr	43	43
Norwest Corp	25	25
Nynex Corp	39	40
Occidental Pet	21	21
Ohio Edison	19	20
Oracle Systems	31	31
Oryx Energy Co	12	12
Owens Corning	39	38
PPG Industries	38	39
PNC Bank	24	24
Paccar Inc	42	42
Pacificorp	19	19
Pac Enterprises	24	24
Pac Gas & Elec	24	25
Pac Telesis	30	30
Pall Corp	21	21
Panhandle East	22	22
Parker Hannifin	44	44
Peco Energy	25	26
Penney (JC)	45	45
Pennzoil	47	46
Pepsico	38	39
Pfizer	86	85
Phelps Dodge	57	57
Philip Morris	65	66
Phillips Pet	36	35
Pitney Bowes	35	36
Polaroid	34	34
PriceCostco	14	14
Procter & Gmbl	66	67
Providian	35	35
Pub Serv E & G	27	27
Quaker Oats	33	33
Ralston Purina	47	47
Raychem Corp	40	40
Raytheon	72	72
Reebok Intl	35	36
Reynolds Metals	49	49
Roadway Srvcs	48	48
Rockwell Intl	38	38
Rohm & Haas	58	58
Royal Dutch	119	118
Rubbermaid	33	32
Safeco Corp	54	55
St Paul's Cos	49	50
Salomon Inc	34	34
Santa Fe Pac	22	12
Sara Lee Corp	26	26
Seecorp	19	19
Schering Plough	74	75
Schlumberger	59	59
Scott Paper	88	87
Seagram	32	32
Sears Roebuck	52	53
Shell Trans	70	70
Sherwin Wlms	33	33
Skyline Corp	17	17
Snap-On-Tools	36	36
Southern Co	20	20
Sthwestern Bell	42	42
Sprint Corp	30	30
Stanley Works	39	39
Sun Company	28	29
Sun Microsys	34	34
Suntrust	57	57
Supervalu	26	26
Sysco Corp	26	26
TRW Inc	68	69
TCC Inds	2	2
Tandem Comp	16	15
Tandy Corp	47	47
Teledyne	26	26
Temple Inland	45	45
Tenet Healthcare	16	16
Tenneco	47	46
Texaco	65	65
Texas Inst	90	90
Texas Utilities	31	31
Textron	56	56
Time Warner	37	37
Times-Mirror A	19	19
Timken	35	35
Torchmark	41	41
Toys R Us	25	25
Transamerica	59	56
Travelers	38	38
Tribune	55	55
Tyco Labs	52	52
UST Inc	31	32
UAL	109	109
USX Marathon	17	17
Unicom	23	23
Unilever NV	130	129
Union Camp	51	51
Union Carbide	30	31
Union Pacific	54	55
Unisys Corp	9	9
USAir Group	6	6
USF&G Corp	13	14
US Life	33	33
US West	40	40
United Tech	69	69
Unocal Corp	29	28
Upjohn	35	36
VF Corp	53	52
WMX Tech	27	27
Wal-Mart Stores	25	25
Warner-Lambert	78	78
Wells Fargo	158	156
Westinghouse El	14	14
Weyerhaeuser	39	39
Whirlpool	54	54
Whitman	18	18
Winn Dixie	56	56
Woolworth	17	17
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	44	44
Xerox	118	117
Yellow Corp	16	16



WIN OR LOSE 27

Who qualifies for a little extra at the Leeds and Halifax

WEEKEND MONEY

HOME FRONT 28,29

A guide to the mortgage maze for the self-employed



New-style Peps get go-ahead

Huge demand is expected for corporate-bond Peps that aim to offer safer investment, **Liz Dolan** says

The Government's decision to allow the inclusion of sterling eurobonds in corporate-bond Peps has delighted the City. The concession was contained in draft regulations to govern the new-style Peps, published yesterday by the Inland Revenue.

The presence of eurobonds will boost the value of qualifying bonds from £15 billion to about £25 billion.

The new Peps may also contain domestic corporate bonds, preference shares, and convertibles, issued by what the Revenue describes as "non-financial" companies. In taxman-speak, this means any company other than a bank.

Corporate-bond Peps, announced in the 1994 Budget, offer relatively high income at a relatively low risk, compared with equity based investments. BZW, the securities arm of Barclays, forecasts huge public demand. It reckons that annual investment could be running at £6 billion within four years, half as much again as the total invested in unit-trust Peps for the whole of last year. Part of that increased demand is expected to come from former Tessa savers switching to the new-style Peps when the first accounts mature next January.

But, although fixed-interest securities are safer than equities, they are only as secure as the companies that issue them — and they are not suitable for everyone. There are fears that the hype that is likely to surround their introduction may tempt the wrong kind of investor, such as those for whom capital growth is more important than immediate income.

Welcoming the proposals, Philip Warland, director-general of the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds, offered the following advice to savers. First, a bond fund is not the same as a building society or bank deposit account. Unless there is a guaranteed fund, the price will fluctuate. Second, high income now will almost always lead to a lower total return in the long run. "If you need income now, fine, but if you are really saving for the long term, a traditional equity fund may be better."

Third, it is vital to discover the reasons for a particularly high-yielding fund. These could include a good manager, or charges taken from capital rather than income, or a portfolio that is riskier than normal. "These are all acceptable answers, but if you do not know what is going on, you may get an unexpected surprise," Mr Warland says.

The Pep industry has until May 12 to comment on the proposals. They will be finalised by the end of May and laid before Parliament in June. The first fully-fledged corporate-bond Peps will hit the market in July.

CORPORATE BONDS

Q What are corporate bonds?

A They are effectively IOUs issued by public companies. Investors lend money to the companies and the money is repaid at a specific rate of interest (the "coupon") after a specified term. Some bonds have floating rate coupons, but only fixed-rate bonds from eligible issuers will be Pepable.

Q I understand I will also be able to include convertibles and preference shares in these new Peps. What exactly are they?

A Preference shares are like ordinary shares except that dividends are paid at a fixed rate and they rank higher if the company goes into liquidation. Also, voting rights tend to be restricted. Convertibles are bonds or preference shares that can be converted into ordinary shares at a fixed date and price. Professional advice about when, and whether, to convert is strongly advised as the wrong decision means losing capital, income, or both.

Q What are eurosterling bonds and why is everyone so pleased that the Government is prepared to allow them into Peps?

A In this context, "euro" has nothing to do with Europe. It means "outside" national boundaries. The eurobond market developed in London in the 1960s, when eurodollar bonds were used to exploit the more favourable tax regime in the UK, compared with the US. Eurosterling bonds have been issued by many of the larger blue chip companies in the UK, including oil and gas groups such as Lasmo, Enterprise and British Gas. They are "bearer" bonds, which means there is no registered owner and they may be sold by whoever physically holds the certificate. They pay interest gross annually. The decision to allow their inclusion inside a Pep has doubled the value, and substantially improved the quality, of bonds available to Pep investors.

Q What are the main attractions of corporate-bond Peps to investors?

A A high, fixed and regular income.
- A guaranteed repayment date and value.
- A lower level of risk than with equity investments.
- Like all Peps, income and capital growth are tax-free.

Q Are they as safe as bank or building society deposit accounts?

A No. The risks are lower than for many other investment products, but they do exist. For instance:
- Charges may eat into underlying capital value. Check whether the Pep manager deducts fees from capital rather than income.
- Fixed-interest investments tend to underperform equities in the longer term, although deposit accounts are likely to underperform both.
- Demand may well outstrip supply, especially in the short term. This is likely to force prices up and yields down.
- You are likely to lose out if a company goes under. Barings's preference shareholders lost the lot when the bank collapsed.

Q Who should invest in them?

A Older people, who are more likely to require relatively risk-free source of income, are prime candidates. Younger people should probably concentrate more on the higher-growth potential of equity-based investments. The proportion of fixed-rate investments to equities should increase with age.

Q How will the new-style Peps compare with other sources of investment income?

A BZW, the securities arm of Barclays Bank and one of the City's main dealers in corporate bonds, says that the following after-tax returns are typical at prevailing rates: building society deposit, 6.375 per cent; Tessa, 7.5 per cent; Guaranteed Income Bond, 6.5 per cent; equity unit trust, 5 per cent; individual eurosterling bond Peps, or bond unit trust Peps, 8.5 per cent. But, who knows what will happen in the future?

Q How might I find out more about corporate-bond Peps?

A Some Pep issuers have already prepared information booklets. These include Barclays (*Investing for a Tax Free Income — Fixed Income Peps*, telephone 0181-522 4000) and Guinness Flight (*An Introduction to Corporate Bonds*, telephone 0171-522 2111).

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth



The North Sea boom of the early Seventies. Will new Pep money come gushing into oil company bonds?

Best and worst of AVC plans

Next week marks the start of a new tax year. By then you should have followed all the end of year tax tips and distributed your money for maximum tax efficiency. Topping up your pension with additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) should have been near the top of your list. But if you are a member of your company's pension scheme and use its AVC plan, do you know which company is entrusted with investing your money and how well it is performing? If the answer to the first question is "yes" and the answer to the second is "badly", what can you do about it?

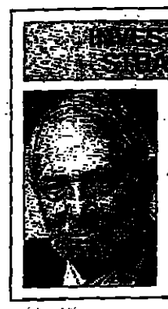
Companies with pension schemes have to offer an AVC facility. It is up to the trustees to choose an investment manager, normally an insurance company, fund manager or building society. But as the latest annual AVC survey from Bacon & Woodrow, the actuary, shows, you can lose thousands of pounds in benefits if your trustees choose the wrong manager.

If you had put £50 a month into a with-profits AVC, run for your company over the last five years by Scottish Mutual, your £3,000 investment would have turned into £4,233. Scottish Mutual turned in the second-best performance. The best was Co-operative Insurance Society at £4,256, but you would only be able to contribute to this if you worked in the Co-operative movement. Commercial Union would have paid just £3,157. These include annual and terminal bonuses, have had charges deducted and assume no commission is paid. Over the same five years and investing the same money in a riskier managed fund, you would have got £4,166 from Fidelity, the best performer, and £3,342 from Guardian, the worst.

You do not have to stick with your employer's scheme if you think the trustees have chosen the wrong manager. You can take out your own free-standing AVC. But this is much more expensive because you have to pay the charges, instead of your employer paying them as it would normally in its own scheme, and probably commission.

SARA MCCONNELL

Look for hands-off officials



ANTHONY HARRIS

A good friend of mine who regularly visits Tokyo has watched the Nikkei stock index fall with dismay. The Japanese banks, unlike our own, are large holders of industrial equities; so the level of the index comes straight through to their balance sheets.

Since those balance sheets also contain a mountain of non-performing loans, it has been white-knuckle time. If the index ended the year below 17,000, it was said, it might become impossible to hide the fact that some seemingly solid banks are bust. Even the merger of Mitsubishi Bank and the Bank of Tokyo announced this week might not look so huge.

Not to worry, my friend was assured. Covert official support, known as the price-keeping operation, would make sure that the index ended the year above the crucial line. Yet with only a few days to go, it stood below 16,000; and in spite of a late rally, it missed, if not by a mile.

But surely, if everyone knew that the market would be supported up to 17,000, it should have looked a safe buy at lower levels? "Ah no, it does not work like that. The market is weak because of the price-keeping operation!" he was told last week. "You see, when everyone knows that the market is rigged, nobody knows what shares are really worth. Not even the institutions are willing to buy."

"Not even", because Japanese institutions are reputed to be obedient to the lightest wish of the Ministry of Finance. Clearly, they are beginning to pick up Western ways, contrarianism for a start. And for good reason. For more than 20 years, under official guidance, they bought US government bonds. This would be taken as a friendly act, and would keep the yen competitive. It didn't work, as you know, even as diplomacy; the Americans denounced the bond buying as part of a dumping plot. But it did cost. The cumulative losses of the Japanese funds on the US bond holdings have been estimated at $400 billion. Guidance is bad for your health.

So now Japanese shares are under the same cloud as the French franc — official support. To a true market man, an official target is a selling opportunity. Who but an official, after all, will buy in quantity in a weak market? So you will no doubt follow the example of British institutions, which are not rushing to buy Japanese equities, even if they do look cheap, or French bonds for that matter. Look for hands-off officials; and you will find them in Threadneedle Street. The announcements this week about the management of the British gilt-edged market look horribly technical, and are indeed of no direct interest to the personal investor. You will not find him poring over the quarterly schedules of intended maturities for the forthcoming fixed-date gilts auctions; he has not the financial clout, even if he had the wish, to go short of gilts in the new repo market.

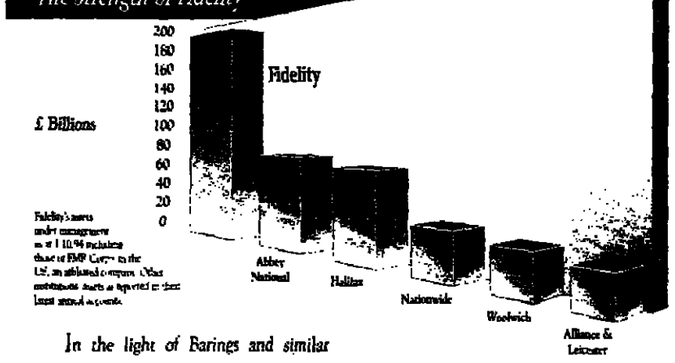
Even the news that indexed bonds are to form a slightly bigger proportion of funding is not exciting: it has never been a problem to buy a few. It is all good news, though. The Bank might have made its announcement in just six words: "I have nothing up my sleeve!" The schedules are a promise of no nasty surprises. The opening of the repo market is a promise that there are no stale bulls waiting to sell. Openness should encourage institutional support for gilts, and so help prices.

And indexed bonds, for which I personally campaigned for eight years before their launch, could be the best news of all. They save the taxpayer money, appeal to high tax payers, and offer a bolt-hole for institutional inflation fogeys. Their retreat in 1981 unleashed the biggest gilt boom of all; but even after 15 years, there are still not enough indexed in issue to make a really liquid market. More supply could unlock more demand, a Catch 22 proposal that the Bank understands. I only wish it would try still harder.

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Investors return to Europe

Helen Pridham finds the German rate cut could revive market interest

Euro-sceptics exist not just in politics. Investors in Europe have also become increasingly sceptical over the past year as continental stock markets have fallen. Many have voted with their feet. Some £1.5 billion was withdrawn from European unit trusts last year — the highest from any sector — and money has continued to ebb away this year. European investment trusts have also fallen from favour, with some *recently standing on discounts* of 15 per cent or more.

When sentiment gets this bearish, it can be a good sign *that markets are about to turn*, argues Talal Shakerchi, manager of Old Mutual's European unit trust, the sector's top performer over three and five years. He says: "When the general perception is that markets are weak, it can be a good buying opportunity. The cut in German interest rates earlier this week could also help to trigger a reversal in market trends. There is now a more positive tone."

But were not some fund *managers telling investors* a similar story at the start of last year? That was when two of the biggest investment trust launches ever hit the market — the Kleinwort Benson and Mercury European Privatisation trusts — each raised about £500 million. At that time, *European stock markets were* riding high.

Paul Harwood, manager of the Mercury trust, says investors were too optimistic. He says: "There were, and still are, good long-term arguments for investing in European privatisations, but some investors mistakenly thought they would be able to make a quick, short-term profit with these trusts as they had stagging various UK privatisations."

These *disappointed investors*, who sold when their hopes were dashed, have driven the price of the two trusts down. Both now stand on price discounts of about 15 per cent. But the share prices of investment trusts do not always reflect their underlying performance. In this respect, the two trusts have not done so badly. Mercury is ahead. The value of its investments now stand at 96.7p per share, against 95p at outset, while the NAV of Kleinwort Benson's trust is 87.8p.

A similar contradiction between sentiment and *underlying value is evident in continental* bourses. Depressed share prices are in contrast to a vibrant economic recovery. But the situation could turn, and recent strong buying of French shares indicates that this could already be happening.

Peter Young, who runs Morgan Grenfell's European Growth unit trust, says: "The economic cycle in Europe tends to follow behind developments in the US and the UK. The Continent entered the recession later than we did and the economic recovery started later. Company earnings are now growing sharply and will continue to do so next year. We are seeing earnings growth across all European markets of 20 per cent or more this year and next." However, stock markets do not yet reflect this recovery, partly because US investors have not been so keen on Europe.

Mr Young expects them to become net investors again: "After recent events in Mexico, they have become somewhat less keen on emerging markets than they were last year and Europe now looks relatively cheap compared to other parts of the world." He points out that growth and development in the emerging Eastern European economies, such as the Czech and Slovak Republics, Poland and Hungary, are bringing increasing benefits to Europe. "Eastern Europe is still a very good story. There are an increasing number of joint ventures occurring with European Union companies."

The UK *unit trust* arm of Credit Suisse, the investment manager, is also positive about the future, and has launched a new European unit trust this year as proof. It has recruited as its manager Patricia Maxwell-Arnot, who previously ran Lazard's European fund.

She argues: "All the evidence in Europe points to a continuing high level of economic activity, with industrial production showing sharp increases, especially in countries like Sweden and Italy which saw double-digit increases late last year." However, she points out that the recent international currency turmoil, with the lira, peseta and Swedish krona all showing varying degrees of weakness against the mark, has not helped market sentiment.

There is no guarantee that things will not get worse in European stock markets before *they get better, but all the signs* are that markets could bounce back before too long.

So existing investors would be well advised to hang on in there. For investors who want to gain European exposure, Peter Walls, investment trust expert at Credit Lyonnais Laing, says there is a classic case for buying an investment trust rather than a unit trust.

Apart from Mercury's European Privatisation trust, he favours Ivory & Sime's Continental Assets and European Assets trusts — currently trading at 16 per cent discounts.

Consistent funds, according to Unit Trust Analysis, apart from those mentioned, include MGM European Growth, Royal Life European and Scottish Widows European.



UNIVERSAL PICTORIAL PRESS & AGENCY

Prague could be a tempting place for investors

Elderly seek redress on home-income plans

Two firms of solicitors working for more than 300 elderly people who took out home-income plans through Fisher Prew Smith, the failed financial adviser, funded by loans from the West Bromwich Building Society are to issue a group writ against the society.

Richard Barnett, of Barnett Sampson, a London solicitor, and Rod Knight, of J. Keith Park, a Merseyside *firm of solicitors, say that their* main priority is to get their clients back into the position they would have been in if they had never taken out plans.

The plans involved elderly people mortgaging their homes and investing *the proceeds in bonds managed by* brokers or insurance companies. Investors lost heavily and are left with mortgages many of them cannot pay.

The writ will be issued after a House of Lords ruling expected next month that will clarify how much money individual victims can recover from the Investors' Compensation Scheme.

Home-income plans have now been banned. Nearly £30 million has been *paid out by the Investors' Compensation* Scheme already, but the scheme has, in turn, served a writ on ten building societies, including the West Bromwich, in an attempt to force them to pay some of the compensation.

The West Bromwich Building Society came under fierce attack from MPs at a hearing of the Commons Treasury Select Committee this week for its role in the home-income plan scandal.

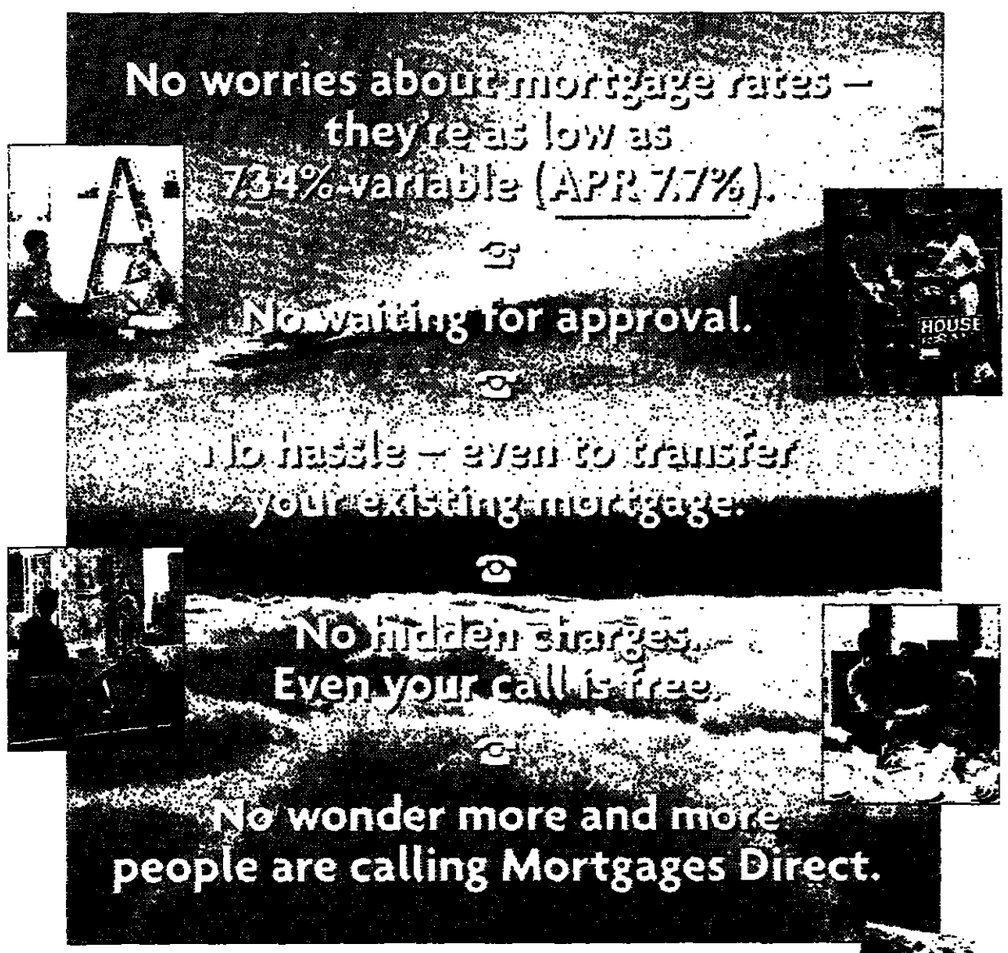
Brian Sedgemore, Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, accused the society of deliberately misleading customers as to the nature of the plans.

John Baker, West Bromwich chairman, rejected the allegations, which followed the disribution by Mike O'Brien, Labour MP for Warwickshire North and also a member of the committee, of the first draft of an internal report drawn up two years ago by Fimbra, regulator of Fisher Prew Smith. The West Bromwich Building Society said that all it did was lend money. It says it had nothing to do with the subsequent investments.

The Securities and Investments Board, which regulated the West Bromwich Building Society's investment activities until last year, told the Treasury Select Committee this week that it had a subsequent version of the report, but said it would never release details.

It said that would jeopardise its continuing investigations into the society's role and afterwards leave the Securities and Investments Board open to being sued for libel.

SARA MCCONNELL



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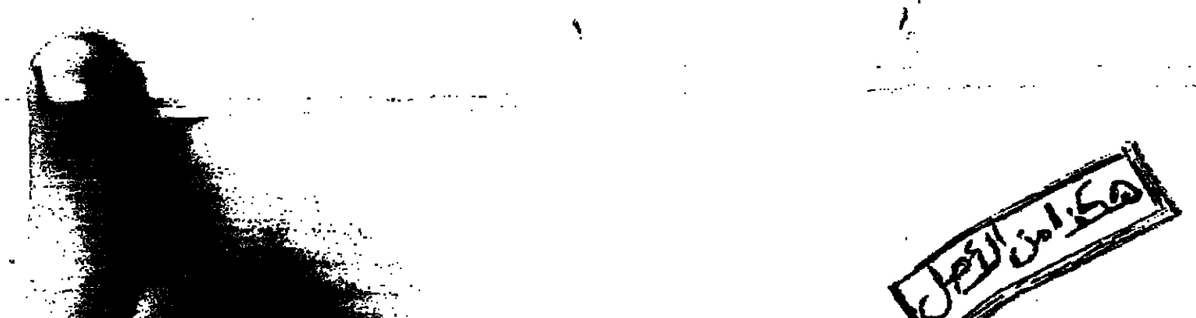
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COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

Lenders finally show borrowers some affection

It is no one's youthful ambition to have a mortgage. This goes to show how sensible children are, as a home loan is the one appendage of adulthood that we would all rather be without.

Over the past few months, life has, as usual, been hard on borrowers. Not only is income support for unemployed homebuyers to be reduced, but next Thursday also brings a further decrease from 20 per cent to 15 per cent in mortgage interest tax relief. This is the latest turn for the worse in the concession's long, lingering, last illness. Meanwhile, mortgage rates may still rise again as Christmas approaches.

But before borrowers start to feel too sorry for themselves, there are suddenly a number of reasons for them to be slightly more cheerful, thanks to increased competition among lenders and a High Court judge's interpretation of the Building Societies Act, 1986.

The ruling made in the Halifax case this week allows the 2.4 million Halifax and Leeds borrowers to benefit from the free share issue. They should receive about £500 apiece, which would cover one month's payment on a £70,000 mortgage.

In spite of last year's Cheltenham & Gloucester decision, which excluded that society's 400,000 borrowers, the judge took as his reference point the Abbey National judgment allowing borrowers to participate in the share free-for-all.

It now seems certain that other societies wishing to leave behind their mutual past to become public companies will use the Halifax scheme as their example. This means that borrowers should receive their rightful due, as members and owners of the society, a claim that has been obscured by the convoluted Building Societies Act.

When mortgage business began to become scarce, the first instinct of lenders was to shower love and affection on new customers. Although this trend continues, a few more enlightened banks and building societies are now finally paying more attention to their existing borrowers.

This encouraging development has been inspired by the realisation that a customer who has met his mortgage payments without fail is an attractive proposition for a competitor — especially if you have said "no" to his request for one of your new super-improved discount offers.

Next week, as we report on page 28, the Abbey National will start to consider applications from creditworthy existing borrowers for 100 per cent mortgages.

This new niche market is likely also to be pursued by other lenders, as the upwardly mobile whose homes have taken a downturn in value become a sought-after commodity.

After the wedding

THE Cheltenham & Gloucester has run into the arms of Lloyds Bank and the pair will now walk off into the sunset together. But the end of the story has not yet been written, and may yet show that marrying for money does not bring happiness.

The borrowers who curiously voted for a deal from which they gained nothing, unless they were also investors with the society, may prove to have done well from the deal. They should benefit, at first, from C&G's pledge to keep its mortgage rates below those of the competition. This should continue under the mortgage price war, which was promised this week by Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds. The C&G will be the special advance division in this campaign.

But savers should reflect that one of the reasons why Mr Pitman was said to have been happier to give them cash, rather than shares, was that he was unwilling to dilute earnings per share growth at the bank. For a while, rates will remain generous to prevent defections to other societies contemplating flotation. But, thereafter, Mr Pitman's care for economy could influence C&G rate policy.

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THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

Anne Ashworth gives a preview of the winners and losers in the Halifax flotation after the Leeds merger

Who will qualify for a little extra

More than 10 million savers and homebuyers are in line for a little extra when the Halifax comes to the stock market in 1997, after its merger with the Leeds. Before the merger vote on May 22, customers will receive a Schedule 16 statement giving details. To find out more now, read on.

Q Will every customer benefit?

A Unfortunately not. Only those who were savers with at least £100 invested in certain types of account and/or borrowers with outstanding mortgages of £100 or more on November 25, 1994, qualify to receive shares under the basic distribution where a fixed number of free shares will be available. If you are both a saver and a borrower, you will get two sets of shares. You must stay with the Halifax until its conversion into a publicly quoted bank and keep the balance on your savings or mortgage account at £100 minimum. In addition, anyone with a savings balance of between £1,000 and £50,000 who has stayed true to the society for a period of two years ending on the qualifying date for conversion (to be announced) will be given extra free shares under the variable distribution. The number will be based on the lowest total balance in the account, or accounts at a series of reference dates, November 25, 1994, being the first of these. The other dates will be announced retrospectively, perhaps at the time of conversion, to avoid speculative flows of cash. Your balance will fall into a series of bands, each with its own share allocation.

Q You say "specific accounts". Which ones?

A The right to benefit from a conversion, or a merger, is restricted to members of the society. You are a member and entitled to take part in the merger and conversion votes if you hold a share account. You are not a member and have no vote if you only hold a deposit or offshore account (see right).

Q How much will I receive?

A Assuming the Halifax has a stock market value of £10 billion, everyone should get about £500 worth of shares in the basic distribution. Since the majority of the free shares will be reserved for this part of the giveaway, the amounts for the variable distribution will not be as generous as the bonuses in the Lloyds/C&G deal. Rob Thomas, building societies analyst at UBS, the broker, estimates a saver with £50,000 might get £3,000-worth.

Q What happens if I withdraw any money?

A As the reference dates remain a secret, you will almost certainly lose out. Do not let your balance fall below its level at November 25, 1994. You are free to switch your cash to an account with a higher rate of interest, but moving to a deposit account would deprive you of free shares. The societies reject the claim that they are keeping savers locked in: "It is only reasonable to expect savers to maintain a reasonable balance."

Q What about children and joint accounts?

A Under 18s cannot vote but will get a cash bonus. In both the basic and the variable distribution, only the first named holder on a joint account will benefit.

DOES YOUR ACCOUNT COUNT?

Halifax share accounts: Premium Xtra. Special Reserve Bond, Halifax Tessa, 90-day Xtra, Instant Xtra Plus, Paid-Up Shares, SAYE, Guaranteed Reserve, Stepped Income Reserve, Sharesave. Certain closed issues are also eligible. Helpline: 0800 834625.
Halifax deposit accounts: Deposit, Cardcash, Asset Reserve Cheque, Maxim, Time Deposit or Halifax Visa. Offshore accounts from Halifax International Jersey and Banco Halifax Hispania.
Leeds share accounts: Liquid Gold, Solid Gold, Bonus Gold, Fixed Rate Bonds, SAYE, Tessa Gold.
Leeds deposit accounts: AVC, Liquid Gold Deposit, Treasurers Account, All Leeds Overseas Limited accounts, Horizon Share Deposit, Deposit GRE and Time Deposits. Helpline: 0800 888844.
The Permanent Interest Bearing Shares (PIBS) of both societies qualify for both distributions. Secured personal loans also qualify.

PETER TRIEVNOR



Market bound: Mike Blackburn, Halifax chief executive

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In uncertainty...

China sits waiting for a new leader to emerge. And nowhere can be sure to avoid the impact of the new regime. In Europe, political confusion is the order of the day. Both Great Britain and Italy see their current political order either threatened or in tatters as a result of crises of confidence or scandals. But Europe has its share of world class companies, and the prospect of vigorous competition as Eastern Europe re-builds.



North America, too, has had its own share of investment inertia as the Clinton administration founders on a reef of unpopularity and allegations, but US companies are renowned for their ability to react positively to competition and opportunity.

There is opportunity.

And in the Far East, political uncertainty in North Korea continues to cast a shadow over parts of the region. Nonetheless, the emerging economies on the Pacific Rim still contain some of the most exciting and ambitious companies to be found anywhere in the world – not least in the extremely attractive high-tech sector.

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Sara McConnell and Anne Caborn find 100% mortgages are again on offer, but not to all customers

A buyer's market on the home front

You may think you hold all the cards if you want to take out a mortgage. Lenders are desperate to lend and once they sight a rare buyer on the horizon, they will bend over backwards to offer you discounts, piles of cash, payment of legal fees, free insurance and 100 per cent mortgages.

Well, yes. Up to a point. The last few years have been a lean time for lenders, with figures this week showing that, at best, new mortgage lending is stuck at the same levels as last year. There is fierce competition for buyers.

But increasingly, you have to be the right sort of buyer to get the best deals. A deposit — the larger the better — or, failing this, a good repayment record, are vital. Your lender will almost certainly go to a credit reference agency and check your creditworthiness. The days of the late 1980s, when lenders flung caution to the winds and offered loans to just about anyone, without in some cases even requiring proof of income, are long gone. Now, in between mopping up the debris of arrears and repossession that their profligacy left behind, lenders are carefully designing their mortgages so that the least risky buyers get most encouragement to borrow.

Abbey National, the second-largest lender, has this week broken its own taboo on officially offering 100 per cent mortgages — but only to existing customers "with a good repayment record and subject to our rigorous credit-scoring process". First-time buyers do not qualify, and the maximum loan is £125,000.

Most main lenders, including the Abbey, have not offered more than 95 per cent of the purchase price of a property since the start of the housing slump, on the ground that those who put up none of their own money had shown themselves to be less determined to keep up mortgage payments when the going got rough. Abbey admits, however, that it did lend 100 per cent in certain cases and that it was merely extending this policy and making it official. The move is mainly designed to help homeowners who have a small amount of negative equity or do not have negative equity but cannot raise the lump sum needed to cover the deposit and fees needed for moving.

If you do have a deposit, you will almost certainly get a better deal on a fixed rate, because you are assumed to have a bigger commitment to making payments.

The Halifax's new fixed-rate deals launched this week cost between 0.2 per cent and 0.3 per cent more to borrowers needing 75 per cent or more of the property's price. Targeting undoubtedly means a better deal for low-risk borrowers. But it can create problems for the self-employed, those on contract work or others whose income is more difficult to assess.

In this two-page special section, we explain how you can persuade lenders that you are a good risk if you are self-employed. But when you have got the offer of a loan, do not set too much store by the annual interest rates quoted — even lenders say they are misleading. And unless you seriously want to have a mortgage hanging over your head for 25 years, use our tips to get shot of it early.

ALAN WELLAR

Lenders and the self-employed

IF YOU have launched a business, or the way you are employed has changed recently, finding a mortgage may be a problem. Of the 25 million people working in Britain, at least one million have more than one job; six million are working part-time, and 1.6 million are on fixed-period contracts.

The Abbey National says it needs at least three years' audited accounts from a self-employed person seeking a mortgage, but it will often accept the word of an accountant or bank manager.

Abbey National will also consider shorter track records. It says: "Generally, we couldn't accept anything less than 18 months, and we might ask to see a future business projection as well."

Part-timers will be considered in the same way as full-time employees, although their lower earnings will be reflected in a lower advance. In the case of contract employees, it will again depend on how long the arrangement has existed, what sort of job it is, and how long the contract is.

The odds of a "yes" or a "no" answer vary between lenders and also individual branch managers. Abbey says: "We encourage managers to make decisions at branch level, but we also have a central department that can look at individual cases."

The Halifax also likes a three-year earnings record for the self-employed, but an existing customer relationship, a deposit of 25 per cent or more, secured work for the future and an existing track record as an employee in the field in which they now work may be taken into account.

Lenders say it is not simply a question of assessing loan risk. Insurance companies underwriting mortgage indemnity insurance may refuse to cover loans to borrowers they consider high risk. Borrowers seeking more than 75 per cent of the property's value normally have to pay for mortgage indemnity insurance, which covers the lender if it has to repossess and sell the property at a loss.

THE INCOME of the self-employed is also more difficult to assess and it is on multiples of income that most loans are based. Trevor Child, marketing manager of Capital Home Loans, says: "With an employed person, the multiple is applied to their gross salary. In the case of somebody who is self-employed, lenders traditionally look at the net-profit figure." About half the company's mortgage applicants are self-employed. "But if that person's accountant has been doing their job properly that figure will be as low as possible by setting business expenses against tax. We would start by asking the accountant two questions — can your client afford the repayments and have they been trading for more than two years?"

Capital Home is one lender whose mortgage product range includes a self-certification or non-status mortgage.



Keeley Grabski with Gary Wilkinson, who found being self-employed was considered when he sought a mortgage

GARY WILKINSON has been a self-employed roofing contractor since he left school ten years ago, but found being his own boss did not automatically carry weight with some mortgage lenders.

"We went to a few others before getting a mortgage with Abbey National. I have a cheque account there. I think it helps that it can see your income and how you manage your finances. There is certainly more paper work to be gone into if you are self-employed, with the Inland Revenue and the accountant. I also think it helps that I had an endowment going and a pension, which I've had for five years. You need to go into it positively."

Gary and Keeley Grabski, his girlfriend, have bought their first home, an end-of-terrace property in Dagenham, Essex, which they are doing up before moving in. They put down more than the required deposit. Ms Grabski is employed as a secretary, and her earnings were also taking into account.

"Being self-employed is a consideration and I think it did make a difference, even though we were told it wouldn't," she says. "One society said he could have a mortgage, but then being self-employed turned into being a big deal."

Special terms for teachers

GROWING numbers of teachers are on fixed-term contracts. In the ten years to 1993, the proportion has risen from 4.5 to 8.6 per cent of the teaching population. About 55 per cent of part-timers were on fixed-term contracts by the end of that period.

The Teachers Building Society currently has 2,600 mortgage holders. It receives a number of applications from teachers unable to get a mortgage elsewhere because of their contract status. "But what's called a temporary contract isn't necessarily so," Hugh Nichols, assistant general manager of the society, says. "It may be renewed for the next eight or nine years."

The contracts the society comes across are generally annual and it will consider contract-holders, even for the 100 per cent mortgage, provided there is an annual contract with six months to run.

"We wouldn't want to do all our mortgages on that basis, but yes, if they met the criteria, we would consider them."

ASK THE TAXMAN

THE taxman can provide proof of earnings if you are self-employed and looking for a mortgage. The Inland Revenue says: "We must have the express permission of the taxpayer and be absolutely certain they are who they say they are. We will only supply the very specific information asked for, but this is something we are prepared to do for mortgage purposes."

HELP YOURSELF

ACCORDING to Stephen Alambritis, of the Federation of Small Businesses, it is important to project a positive image if you are self-employed. As well as accounts and business plans, you can achieve this by:

- Registering for value-added tax;
- Listing relevant qualifications;
- Giving good quality references.

TAKE COVER

MOST mortgage payment protection policies oblige the self-employed to abandon the business in order to make a valid claim. With Abbey National Paymentcare, the self-employed have to be registered unemployed, provide evidence of financial insolvency and file closing accounts before claiming. But GA Direct varies the premium to reflect the risk rather than refusing people.

Are you leaving your heirs less tax more inheritance?

Naturally you want to leave all of your estate to your family or dependants or at least to someone of your choosing.

But the truth is that without some forward planning your heirs will receive only what is left after the Inland Revenue take their share in the form of Inheritance Tax when you die.

And that share can be quite dramatic.

For example, on an estate of £400,000 (including house, contents, personal effects, stocks and shares, bonds, trusts, cash, life assurance and any inheritances) the Exchequer stands to be an equal beneficiary. If there were three children they would each get £100,000 but the Exchequer would also take £100,000.

And it gets worse; above £150,000 the rate is a flat 40%. At Towry Law we can help you make plans to reduce your liability and pass on your accumulated wealth to your chosen beneficiaries.

Now think for a moment. I.H.T. does not just apply to the very rich, it applies to everybody with assets above £150,000.

Think what your house and investments are worth. And then think: I must get in touch with Towry Law today.

Note: levels and bases of, and reliefs from, taxation are subject to change.

ASK FOR OUR FREE GUIDE.

Talk to Towry Law
ESTABLISHED 1958
for independent financial advice
REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

Towry Law Financial Planning Ltd, FREEPOST, Newbury RG13 1BR.
Please send me, without obligation, your free guide on "The Death Tax: How to Avoid it".
Age Self _____ Spouse _____
I would like a financial review..... ☐
Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Tel: _____
For written details PHONE FREE ON
0800 52 11 96
For information (office hours only) telephone: Windsor 0753 868244, Edinburgh 031-228 2244, Glasgow 041-204 2854, Leeds 0532 443811, Belfast 0232 237121 or Birmingham 021-454 4544.
TM1946/1197

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The following variable gross annual interest rates and investment bands apply to Postal 50 Account - balances of £2,000+ 6.95%, £10,000+ 7.65%, £25,000+ 7.90%, £40,000+ 7.40%. Monthly rates also available. Information correct at time of going to press

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If you would like to find out more about this new direction in investment, speak to your financial adviser, complete the coupon below or call us at local rate on 0345 832 832.

HTR HENDERSON TOUCHE REMNANT The Investment Managers

Henderson Touche Remnant represents products and services provided by Henderson Touche Remnant Unit Trust Managers Ltd (regulated by The Personal Investment Authority and Henderson Financial Management Limited. Both of which are members of IMRO. The value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and is the result of market and currency fluctuations and the investor may not get back the amount originally invested. Taxes relating to PEPs may change if the law changes and the value of tax relief will depend upon the circumstances of the investor. Scheme particulars are available from the Manager.

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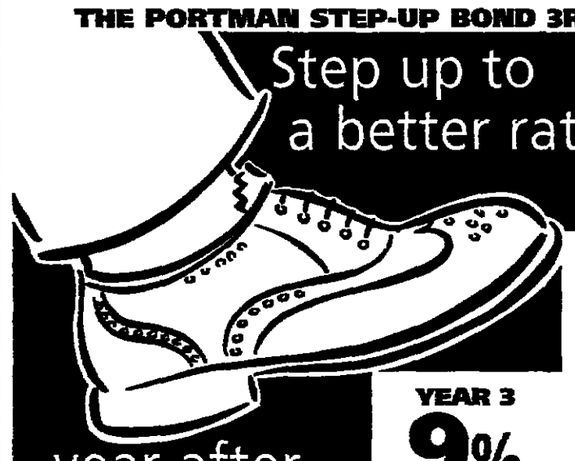
CALL AT LOCAL RATE
0345 832832
Quoting the reference "ETHICAL 17"

HTR Ethical Fund

To: HTR Investor Services Department FREEPOST (KE 5906), London EC2B 2SX
Please send me details and an application form for HTR Ethical Fund
Title _____ Initial(s) _____ Surname _____
Address _____
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Issued by Henderson Touche Remnant Unit Trust Management Limited, 1 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA.
ETHI T1 1/4 4560

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Interest is paid annually. Interest will be paid net of the basic rate of income tax or, subject to the required certification, gross. Where the tax deducted exceeds the tax liability (if any), a claim may be made to the Inland Revenue for repayment of tax. Minimum investment: £500. Maximum investment: £30,000 per individual or £60,000 for joint investors. No partial withdrawals are permitted. Single deposits only, but more than one Bond may be opened, subject to the maximum investment levels. Accounts can be closed during the 4 year term, however, a penalty equivalent to 90 days' interest is applicable.

Please complete and return to Customer Services (Investments), Portman Building Society, Portman House, Richmond Hill, FREEPOST, Bournemouth BH2 6BR.
I/We enclose £ _____ (Min £500, Max £30,000/£60,000) to invest in a Portman 4 Year Step-Up Bond.
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Remember that the value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. The above is based on current tax legislation which can change in the future.

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To: Equitable Unit Trust Managers, FREEPOST, Walton Street, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 7BR.
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I am interested in regular saving ☐ lump sum investment ☐ TM3BC
NAME (Mr Mrs Miss) _____
ADDRESS _____
Postcode _____ Date of Birth _____
Tel: (Office) _____
Tel: (Home) _____
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What is the true cost of a loan?

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SAVE & PROSPER

TIME TO
PUT PENSIO
TO PAPER.



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هكذا من الأصل

What is the true cost of a loan?

Jean Eaglesham finds that annual percentage rates can be misleading



IF YOU are thinking of switching to one of the low fixed-rate or discount mortgage deals on offer, you should be wary of relying on the annual percentage rate (APR) to compare one rate with another. Lenders and other advisers say the way they now have to work out the APR, the key cost measure used in advertisements, is misleading and "flawed".

The APR for fixed-rate loans used to be calculated to show the total cost of fixed and variable rates and fees over the term of the mortgage, shown as an annual figure. The lower the APR, the cheaper the loan. But after a court ruling, in a case brought against NatWest by Devon Trading Standards Office, the figure you, as a borrower, will be given for a fixed-rate deal assumes that you pay the fixed rate for the whole of the mortgage term, rather than paying the (higher) variable rate when the fixed-rate period is over.

Ian Darby, marketing director of John Charcol, the independent financial adviser, says the APR "is a completely worthless experiment now". He adds: "Mortgage adverts are just not helping customers — they are not being given the information they need to make the right decision."

Bob Imrie, deputy director of Devon TSO, describes the judgment as "wholly flawed — it stinks".

Borrowers need more than ever to compare one rate with another. As well as comparing a wide range of fixed rates over different periods, and working out the up-front charges (which can total thousands of pounds) they need to take into account the variable rate they will have to pay when the fixed rate is over. Add into the comparison redemption penalties for switching to another lender and the the problem becomes clear.

Take one of the lowest fixed rates on offer. Yorkshire Building Society is offering 3.99 per cent fixed for one year and 6.99 per cent for two. Using the new calculation, the APR for two years, at 7.5 per cent, is almost twice as high as the 4.3 per cent quoted for the one-year fix. The APR figures on the older, more logical, basis are almost identical at 8.6 per cent for the one year and 8.8 per cent for two years.

The society is unhappy that it is "obliged by law to quote figures which now mean very little to anybody". It says: "The quicker we can get back to the use of APRs as a proper benchmark, the better."

Woolwich Building Society still uses the old APR system for quotes given to individual customers in its branches. Like all lenders it has to quote the new, lower APRs in advertisements, in spite of thinking the figures are very misleading. "The whole APR system at the moment is a nonsense."

The Department of Trade and Industry says it is hamstrung by European legislation, which is due to be reviewed later this year.

Graeme Jacobs, money editor at Consumers' Association, says the situation is "absolutely outrageous". The advice for anyone looking for a good deal is either to get independent advice or to get a number of individual quotations from lenders that appear to have competitive rates.

Need advice on a PEP?

For details, call free on:

0800 282 101

9am–6pm – 7 days a week

SAVE & PROSPER

THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO

ADVERTISING ARCHIVES



Shopping around for loan deals could cut the price of putting a roof over your head

Own your home sooner



FROM this week, tax relief on mortgage interest will be cut to 15 per cent. It will be worth a maximum of £30 a month to homeowners at current interest rates. Buying a house now looks less and less like an investment and more and more like an expense.

With a "feel-bad" factor like this, lenders are starting to respond to borrowers who want to get rid of their debt as soon as they can.

Yorkshire Bank launched its "flexible-payment mortgage" last year. The plan at the outset is to step up the payments by a small percentage each year and thus reduce the time it takes to pay off the loan, as well as cutting the total cost.

On a typical £50,000 mortgage, Yorkshire's scheme assumes the same monthly repayments, £370.74 for the first year, as on its standard 25-year mortgage. But each year this increases by 1.5 per cent, reaching £523.68 a month by the eighteenth and final year. The mortgage is thus paid off six-and-a-half years early and the total cost, at today's 8.35 per cent interest, is £101,695 — £19,000 less than the total cost of a 25-year mortgage. The savings can be even greater if payments are made on a weekly or fortnightly basis.

Another lender offering this flexible approach is UCB Home Loans, which launched a Term Master plan last year. Based in Sutton, Surrey, UCB is a division of Compagnie Bancaire, one of France's largest banking groups. Michael Bolton, marketing manager, explains: "If you can afford to pay the equivalent of, say, 10 or 11 per cent it makes sense to 'overpay', reduce the length of the mortgage and at the same time to cut the total cost."

The UCB scheme is currently based on a variable interest rate of 7.99 per cent. Normal monthly repayments on a £50,000 25-year loan worked out at £350, but by paying an extra, say, £53 a month, the mortgage term is reduced to 18 years; the total repayment cost falls accordingly from just under £117,000 to £95,465.

With both these schemes, if your circumstances change, you can alter your monthly payments, up or down (to a minimum level) and adjust the mortgage term within the company's normal range.

Most building societies will allow homebuyers to make overpayments on their mortgage, either as a one-off or as an additional monthly payment. If you want to make overpayments, make sure your lender can credit your mortgage account with the money immediately. If it waits until the end of the year, put the money aside in a savings account so that it earns interest, and pay it over at the end of the year. Lenders often set a minimum amount.

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TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE VERY BEST DISCOUNTS ON OFFER IN THE UK FOR YOUR 1995/96 PEP.

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For further details on purchasing or transferring PEP's through Elson Associates, please complete and return the coupon below to Elson Associates, FREEPOST DT1138, 18 Maxwell Road, Welling, Kent, DA16 1BR or alternatively telephone us on FREEPHONE 0500 691790.
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Name _____

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Please send me details of the above offer by return of post (please tick box)

I am considering an investment of £ _____ in the _____ (company)

_____(fund) PEP. Please send me the revelant application form together with a note of your discounted terms.

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Do you know what your pension is worth, or where the documentation is? Many customers tell us that they don't. So we'd like to introduce our new Pensions File.

It will record all your pensions information in one place, help you to assess your present arrangements accurately and also help you look to the future.

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(So that we may call to offer further information.) 137

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Application forms for 94/95 tax year must be returned by noon on 5th April 1995.

HSBC Asset Management
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THE FOOTSIE PEP
THE HSBC FT-SE 100 INDEX FUND

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Play the stock market game

ALL THE excitement of the stock market, and in a risk-free environment. The ESEC Investor Challenge, open for ten weeks from April 24, provides an opportunity for investors to learn about the workings of the stock market, build up confidence, and test new strategies in realistic situations. The competition has already been a success in The Netherlands and Germany. There are 15 cash prizes worth a total of £26,000, as well as trips to New York and Amsterdam. The first prize is £5,000. Market players decide which shares, gilts or options they want to trade in, call the telephone service, and place their orders. Participants will receive a guide book to the stock market, a three-month subscription to *What Investment*, and a new publication, *Traded Options — a Private Investor's Guide*. The entrance fee is £40, but £35 for readers of *The Times* who quote "Times Special Offer" when they phone 0171-628 8282.

■ *How To Invest In Shares*, published by NatWest, could prove a useful guide for anyone investing in the stock market, the competition or the real thing. As part of the Making Life Easier series, the 41-page guide provides no-nonsense information in plain English. It explains what a share is, why to buy them, the different types on offer and what affects share prices. For a free copy, call 0800 200 400.

■ Investors who hold Barings Preference shares, which have been described by ING, the new Dutch owners of Barings, as "completely worthless" and who want to join a new action group seeking a better deal should contact: Streathers, 40 Piccadilly, London W1. Alternatively, Simon Forster, founder of the action group, can be contacted on 0296 715088 or 0296 714975.

■ Unsafe home-income plans, which were arranged in the late Eighties and left many elderly homeowners in debt, were under the scrutiny of a House of Commons Select Committee this week. The worst offenders have been outlawed, and a helpful alternative is at hand. The recently published *Safe Home Income Plan* leaflet offers advice before taking out a plan. Company members include Allchurches Life Assurance, Carlyle Life Assurance, and Home & Capital Trust. Call 0181-390 8166.

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	1st Class Acc	Postal	£1,000	6.20	Yly
Skipton BS 01756 700511	3 High Street	Instant	£2,000	6.25	Yly
Birmingham Midshires 0645 720721	First Class	Postal	£10,000	6.40	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Go Direct	Instant	£20,000	6.70	Yly

FIXED RATES	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Clydesdale Bank 0800 445265	Prime Plus	1yr bond	£5,000	8.00	F/OM
Coventry BS 01203 839333	Fixed Rate Bond	31.3.97	£25,000	8.30	F/Yly
Bradford&Bingley BS 01274 555310	Fixed Rate Bond	14.5.98	£2,500	8.50	F/Yly
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744500	Investmnt Certs	5yr bond	£1,000	9.00	F/Mly

TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744500		5 year	£8,300	8.50	F/Yly
Hinckley & Rugby BS 0800 774499		5 year	£3,000 A	7.65	Yly
Market Harborough BS 01858 463244		5 year	£9,000	7.75	Yly
Holmesdale BS 01737 245716		5 year	£500	7.50	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming S&P 0800 282101	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.60%	£12
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C
Alliance & Leicester 0500 900250	Visa	1.375%	18.90%	£10 E

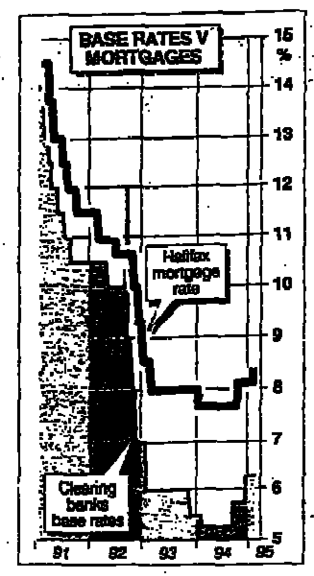
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

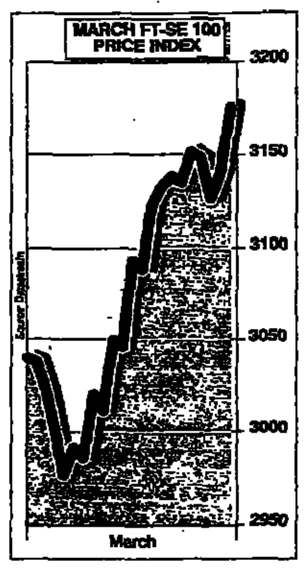
	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Clydesdale Bank 0141 223 2216	16.20%	£113.94	£103.33
Midland Bank 0345 180180	15.40%	£116.54	£103.14
N&P BS 0800 808080	15.50%	£118.22	£103.29
Alliance&Leicester 0116 255 5555	15.9%HI	£115.74	£103.77

Nb. A - Feeder account required. In the interest paid columns, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee waived for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable); OM denotes interest paid on maturity

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 665)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		01416494555
Investment A/c* s	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-500	1mth	01416494555
Income Bond* s	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-24,999	3mth	01253766151
First Opt Bond s	6.40	4.80	3.84	1,000-250,000		01416362558
42nd Issue Cert†±	5.85			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Yearly Plan†s	5.85			20-400/mth	14day	01913864900
Children's Bond†	7.86			25-1,000	1mth	01416362635
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bonds s	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	8day	01416362603
8th Index Linked†±	3.00			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Pensnrs Bond S2 s	7.50	5.63	4.50	500-20,000s	60day	01253766151

¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ² Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble s Guaranteed when held for 5 years ± 0.3% net bonus for £20,000+ ~£40,000 jt in addition to 51 holdings* Taxable but cred in full.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Equit Life ....Level	£10,970	£12,004	£13,330
Can Life ....Level	£10,556	£11,710	£13,276
Stdrd Life ....Level	£10,496	£11,562	£12,932
MGM Asmce ....Level	£10,659	£11,715	£13,161
Generali ....Level	£10,692	£11,706	£13,032

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Nrch Union..........Level	£9,922	£10,641	£11,714
Equitable ....Level	£9,933	£10,743	£11,862
Can Life ....Level	£9,739	£10,563	£11,778
Generali ....Level	£9,805	£10,636	£11,792
MGM Asmce..........Level	£9,927	£10,670	£11,779

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 / Female: Age 55	Age 65 / Age 60	Age 70 / Age 65
Nrwch Uni ....Level	£9,606	£10,143	£10,924
Equitable ....Level	£9,549	£10,163	£11,008
Prudential..........Level	£9,429	£9,989	£10,779
MGM Asmce..........Level	£9,621	£10,226	£11,095
Generali ....Level	£9,463	£10,067	£10,906

Source: Annuity Direct (071 375 1175)

Compiled by: Morag Preston

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at March 30, 1995

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year	1,000	Premium Life	5.50
	5,000	AIG Life	5.55
	10,000	AIG Life	5.75
	20,000	AIG life	5.85
	50,000	AIG Life	5.90
	100,000	AIG Life	5.95
	250,000	AIG Life	6.00
2 Years	1,000	Premium Life	6.30
	20,000	AIG Life	6.35
	50,000	AIG Life	6.40
	100,000	AIG Life	6.45
	250,000	AIG Life	6.50
3 Years	1,000	Premium Life	6.40
	3,000	Eurolife	7.00
4 Years	1,000	Premium Life	6.50
	50,000	Gan Life	6.60
5 Years	1,000	Premium Life	6.60
	3,000	Eurolife	7.30
	5,000	Eurolife	7.40
	10,000	Eurolife	7.50
	25,000	Eurolife	7.60
	50,000	Eurolife	7.70

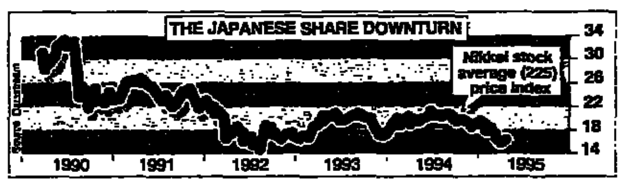
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 01225 483636. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Vary terms. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	89.50	10.466	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	113.00	10.288	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	125.00	10.400	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	127.50	10.492	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	123.25	10.549	100.42	1,000
Cheltenham & Glos	11.750%	116.75	10.066	100.96	50,000
Coventry	12.125%	115.00	10.524	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	104.50	11.246	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	88.50	9.937	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	118.50	10.120	100.28	50,000
Leeds Permanent	13.625%	135.50	10.064	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	126.75	10.553	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	102.625	10.473	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	121.75	10.364	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	121.75	10.413	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	122.00	10.554	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
First National	9.6750%	103.00	100.00	1,000
Cheshire	9.50156%	100.50	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bradford & Bingley 0800 252 993	3.15	£15k+	75	5.3% discount for 12 months
Britannia 0800 526350	2.95	neg	80	5.49% discount for 12 months
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	2.49	to £150k	90	6.05% discount to 1.5.96
Banks				
Abbey National 0800 555100	3.49	neg	75	4.85% discount to 31.5.96
Lloyds Local branch	3.60	£60k+	60	4.75% discount for 1 year

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0800 590547	1.00	£25-100k	95	7.45%disc-6m 2%disc-6m 0.5%disc-6m
Hinckley & Rugby 0455 251234	1.25	to £150k	70	7.14% disc-9mns
Yorkshire 0274 740740	1.44	£25-£150k	95	7% disc-6mnths 3% disc-6mnths
Banks				
First Direct 0800 242424	3.29	neg	50	4.10% discount for 12 mnths
HYPO - MSL 0344 394095	3.39	£15-100k £100k	95	5.10% discount to 1.5.96

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Hinckley&Rugby 0455 251 234	1.25	to 150k	70	7.14% discount for 9 mnths
Brad & Bingley 0800 252 993	3.15	£30k+	75	5.30% discount for 12 mnths
Skipton 0800 590545	2.29	to £150k	95	6% disc 5 mnths 1.75% disc 1 year
Banks				
B of Scotland 0132 556 8555	3.94	£15k-150k	95	4.50% discount to 31.1.96
Lloyds Local Branch	3.60	£60K+	95	4.75% for 1 year

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9AS 0171 538 8800				
Balanced	453.70	480.20	+4.10	
UK Equity	577.20	610.80	+7.30	
Property	490.00	518.20	+0.20	
Fixed Interest	310.60	328.70	+0.50	
Money	253.20	268.00	+0.10	
International	360.50	381.50	+4.50	
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Property Fd Inc	279.40	294.20	-0.90	
-do- Acc	527.70	555.50	-1.70	
Equity Fd Inc	169.20	177.10	-2.40	0.0
-do- Acc	224.30	236.30	-3.30	0.0
Selective Fd	489.90	515.70	-1.30	0.0
Money Fd	382.30	402.40	+0.30	
Prop Fd Ser 4	411.30	433.00	-1.50	
Equity Ser 4	214.90	226.30	+2.40	
Man Ser 4	652.30	686.70	+10.30	0.0
Conv Ser 4	332.10	349.60	+0.10	
Money Ser 4	331.80	349.30	+0.30	
Fixed Int Ser 4	345.30	363.50	-0.50	0.0
American Ser 4	485.80	511.40	-2.90	0.0
High Inc Ser 4	669.40	704.70	+6.80	0.0
Indexed Inv Ser 4	208.50	219.50	-0.90	0.0
Japan Ser 4	332.30	349.80	-16.90	0.0
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	£15.01	£15.80	+0.50	
European Fd Acc	355.40	374.10	+3.70	
Fixed Int Acc	502.40	528.80	-2.00	
Gtd Money Acc	338.30	356.10	+0.20	
Intl Managed Acc	577.70	608.10	+5.40	
Int Fxd Int Acc	329.90	347.30	-0.90	
Japan Fund	240.10	252.70	-14.20	
N American Acc	319.20	332.80	+1.20	
Prop Fd Acc	443.20	466.50	-0.90	
Multiple Inv Acc	997.10	£10.49	+3.70	
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	376.60	396.50	+0.30	
Equity Acc	£13.77	£14.50	+19.90	
Property Acc	584.00	615.70	+0.10	
Far East Acc	293.50	309.00	-10.40	
Managed Capital	516.50	543.70	+7.10	
-do- Acc	£10.62	£11.18	+12.90	
Overseas Acc	926.90	975.60	+5.90	
Gilt Edged Acc	480.90	506.20	+0.90	
Amer Equity Acc	776.60	817.50	-0.90	
Amer Man Acc	331.10	348.60	+1.40	
Amer Prop Acc	113.90	119.90	-1.00	
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	158.90	167.10	+0.20	
Balcd Ser 6	708.60	746.10	+10.10	
Opportunity Ser 6	159.50	167.90	+2.70	
Distribution Ser 6	96.81	101.90	+0.90	7.20
UK Equities Ser 6	976.70	£10.27	+14.10	
Higher Inc Ser 6	£10.32	£10.87	+13.80	
North Amer Ser 6	452.90	476.70	-4.80	
Far East Ser 6	549.50	578.70	+17.90	
Europe Ser 6	366.80	385.00	+7.50	
Intnl Ser 6	552.30	581.40	+11.90	
Property Ser 6	557.50	586.60	-0.90	
Fixed Int Ser 6	436.90	459.90	-0.20	
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	179.00	188.50	-0.20	
Gteed Dep Ser 6	299.50	315.20	...	
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	627.30	660.90	+9.30	
-do- Initial	540.10	568.60	+3.80	
Gilt Edged Acc	379.70	399.70	+1.20	
-do- Initial	250.10	263.30	-0.60	
International Acc	382.40	402.60	+6.50	
-do- Initial	250.30	263.50	+3.70	
Managed Acc	511.10	538.00	+5.20	
-do- Initial	335.70	353.40	+2.40	
Money Acc	294.30	309.80	+0.20	
Property Acc	305.20	321.30	-2.30	
-do- Initial	199.60	210.20	-1.60	
America Acc	274.60	289.10	+2.70	
Australia Acc	189.20	199.20	-1.60	
Financial Acc	328.20	345.50	-3.00	
Sm Securs	421.40	443.60	+3.10	
Japan Gent Acc	310.70	327.10	-10.20	
Income Acc	506.10	533.40	+6.70	
Leisure Acc	224.50	236.40	+3.00	
Special Sits Acc	229.10	241.80	+2.00	
Univ Tech Acc	152.40	160.50	+2.00	
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	759.78	795.98	+10.82	
Income Fund	759.14	799.10	+10.71	
Extra Income	687.97	724.18	+10.09	
Worldwide Gth	466.67	491.18	+4.52	
Balanced Fund	663.45	698.37	+8.03	
Small Cos Recvy	657.91	692.54	+4.07	
N Amer & Genrl	345.40	363.58	+1.49	
Pacific Basin	385.91	406.23	+2.26	
German Growth	230.23	242.35	-5.31	
Japan Growth	172.47	181.51	-0.29	
The UK Gth Fd	208.67	219.97	+3.10	
Cont Euro Gth	131.16	138.07	+0.10	
Property Fund	410.94	432.57	-0.35	
Fixed Interest	306.10	322.22	+0.05	
Cash Fund	286.30	301.47	+0.20	
Managed Inv	481.59	506.94	+6.84	
Nth Amer Recov	235.50	245.74	+0.82	
[illegible] Fund				
Managed Grth	497.79	523.99	+0.71	
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE PO Box 37, Greenock, Renfrewshire 01475 888000				
Max Gteed Perf	154.30	162.90	+4.00	
Performance Plus	149.90	156.60	+3.20	
With Profit Perf	177.90	184.00	+0.20	

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	176.30	186.50	+2.90	
Euro Opportunity	204.50	216.40	+4.70	
North Amer Opp	163.90	173.40	+0.80	
Far East Opp	176.60	186.90	+8.90	
Gwth Prop Ser 1	127.60	134.40	...	
Gth Prop Ser 2	182.00	192.50	+0.90	
Fixed Int	188.70	199.60	+1.10	
Cash	158.10	167.30	+0.30	
Overseas	172.70	182.70	+3.60	
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	319.00	335.80	+7.30	
UK Equity	552.80	581.90	+12.40	
Property	268.40	282.60	...	
Money Market	254.70	268.20	+0.30	
Fixed Interest	297.50	313.20	+0.30	
Japan	344.60	362.80	+24.00	
North America	147.50	155.60	+0.70	
International	265.90	279.90	+6.40	
European	261.20	275.00	+4.50	
Far East	122.70	129.20	+4.10	
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Equity Growth	£71.90	...		
Managed	318.40	335.20	+3.10	
Property	238.20	250.90	-1.00	
Gilt & Fxd Int	239.60	252.30	+0.90	
Equity	353.40	372.60	+3.70	
Cash	220.60	232.30	+2.30	
CLife Euro Mgd	362.40	381.50	+5.20	
CLife Intl Fd	334.10	351.70	+6.30	
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU 01908 606101				
Property Fund	168.20	177.10	+4.90	
Managed Fund	587.30	618.30	+8.50	
Equity Fund	340.90	359.80	+4.60	
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	278.90	293.50	+2.60	
Ruby	164.60	173.30	+1.60	
Emerald	144.60	152.30	+0.10	
Equity	319.60	336.50	+3.00	
Property	233.50	245.80	-0.00	
Gilt & Fixed Int	201.10	211.70	-0.50	
Indexed Secs	166.70	175.50	-0.20	
Cash	189.20	199.20	+0.10	
Nth American	220.40	232.00	-0.40	
Far East	303.20	319.20	+3.70	
International	221.20	241.30	+3.60	
Special Sits	317.90	334.60	+1.90	
Intl Income	281.40	296.70	+3.30	
American Inc	188.90	198.90	+0.70	
European	307.50	323.70	+4.30	
Japanese	133.80	140.90	+5.70	
SE Asia	334.10	351.70	-2.90	
With Profits Reg	168.00	176.90	-0.20	
-do- Spec	168.00	176.90	-0.20	
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	310.90	327.30	+4.00	
Equity	373.60	393.30	+4.80	
Property	212.50	223.70	-0.40	
Gilt & Fixed Int	249.90	263.10	-1.00	
Index Linked	175.90	185.10	-0.20	
Cash	253.90	267.30	+0.30	
Nth American	269.90	284.20	+1.60	
Far East Acc	295.10	310.70	+10.50	
International Acc	287.10	302.30	+7.50	
Special Sits	456.00	490.10	+3.30	
European Flex	418.70	440.80	+7.10	
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
Unitised Key	£207.18	...		
-do- Pacemaker	£297.30	...		
-do- Cash	205.78	216.61	+0.14	
-do- Equity	536.14	564.36	+6.58	
-do- Fxd Int	350.80	369.26	-0.87	
-do- Managed	383.57	403.76	+3.96	
-do- Property	287.15	302.26	+2.48	
(Pens) Cash Cap	209.07	220.09	+0.08	
-do- Cash Inv	309.51	325.81	+0.33	
-do- Equity Cap	£13.91	£14.65	+16.17	
-do- Equity Inv	£20.60	£21.68	+25.38	
-do- Fixed Cap	382.57	402.71	-1.46	
-do- Fixed Inv	566.34	596.15	-1.77	
-do- Index Cap	196.69	207.06	-0.42	
-do- Index Inv	291.18	306.51	-0.43	
Mngd Cap	555.57	584.82	+6.34	
Mngd Inv	822.44	865.73	+9.97	
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5)	2683.30	...	+1.21	
Var Ann (5)	190.03	...	+0.09	
Prime: Managed	392.40	413.60	+4.50	
Prime: UK Equity	478.60	503.70	+4.90	
Prime: Int Equity	289.40	304.70	+6.40	
Prime: Property	253.70	267.10	-0.20	
Prime: Fxd Int	227.30	239.30	-0.40	
Prime: Index-Lnk	167.40	176.30	-0.30	
Prime: Cash	208.60	219.60	+0.30	
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744840				
Managed Fund	£11.00	£11.58	...	0.0
Equity Fund	£15.92	£16.76		
CROWN FINANCIAL Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW 01483 715033				
Life Mangd Acc	583.00	613.60	+6.60	
Life Fxd Int Acc	369.10	388.50	+0.70	
Life Equity Acc	812.90	860.90	+7.20	
Life Money Acc	304.00	319.90	+0.20	
Life Inv Tst Acc	764.00	804.20	+5.40	
Life Intl Acc	480.70	506.00	-11.30	
Life High Inc Acc	792.00	833.60	+8.80	
Life Property Acc	254.40	267.70	-5.00	
Crown Brit Inv A	512.75	...		
Brewin Equity	709.60	746.90	-0.80	

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Secure Fund	177.40	186.80	+0.10	
Managed Fund	230.30	242.40	+2.20	
-do- Series 2	151.20	159.20	-1.40	
Adventurous Fd	183.20	192.90	+4.20	
-do- Series 2	140.60	148.10	+3.20	
Equity Mngd Fd	229.20	241.30	+3.30	
-do- Series 2	152.10	160.20	+2.20	
UK Pref Fxd Int	140.10	147.50	-0.20	
UK Equity Fund	158.90	167.20	+1.40	
Property Fund	122.50	129.00	...	
Envrnmntl Opps	160.00	168.50	+1.40	
Euro Fund	180.50	190.10	+3.10	
North Amer Fd	189.00	199.00	+0.80	
Oriental Ops	216.60	228.00	+3.10	
Japanese Fund	118.00	124.30	+6.50	
Bri & West Life	125.60	132.30	+0.20	
Bri & West Pen	142.50	150.00	-0.20	
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND 60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	253.40	262.60	+2.20	3.44
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed (Maxd)	298.80	314.60	+3.10	
UK Equity	397.70	418.70	+3.90	
Stewardship	336.10	353.80	+3.90	
Overseas Equity	271.90	286.20	+4.90	
North American	146.40	154.20	+0.40	
Pacific Basin	155.00	163.20	+3.90	
European	213.40	224.70	+4.00	
Property	201.50	212.20	-3.00	
Fixed Interest	229.60	241.70	-0.40	
Index Linked	165.90	174.70	-0.30	
Cash	202.90	213.60	+0.20	
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	532.30	560.30	+1.90	
Managed	684.70	720.70	+8.10	
Deposit	349.50	366.90	+0.40	
Property	487.30	512.90	-1.50	
American	414.90	436.80	+1.10	
Australian	467.90	492.50	+2.30	
European	519.70	547.00	+8.90	
Income Acc	747.30	786.60	+8.10	
-do- Dist	437.60	460.70	+6.20	5.23
International	300.90	316.60	+6.90	
Japan Smaller	468.00	492.60	+24.40	
Singapore & Mal	362.70	381.70	+5.40	
Smaller Cos	396.80	417.60	+4.70	
Tokyo Fund	651.70	686.00	+36.80	
UK Equity	573.90	604.10	+8.00	
CCM Vangd Mg	730.20	768.60	+7.50	
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	297.00	312.70	+4.30	
GT Plan Wwide	453.50	477.40	+11.80	
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	672.70	672.70	+6.40	
-do- Inv A	672.60	708.10	+6.30	
UK Equity	401.20	422.40	+2.40	
Gilt Plus	200.20	210.80	-0.10	
Managed	299.00	314.90	+2.90	
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	205.90	216.60	+2.50	
Unitised Profit	139.60	146.80	+0.20	
UK Equity	278.30	292.90	+3.10	
Fixed Int	190.70	200.60	-0.70	
Index-Linked	162.00	170.40	-0.40	
Cash Deposit	176.00	185.10	+0.10	
Property	190.70	200.60	-2.80	
International	167.90	176.60	+3.30	
American	158.00	166.20	-1.30	
Japan	229.30	241.40	+14.70	
Japan Smllr Cos	241.00	253.60	+15.10	
European	178.00	187.20	+4.00	
Pacific Fund	263.90	277.60	+2.30	
Conv Life	122.00	129.20	+0.30	
For General Portfolio see Gan				
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	824.70	859.00	+1.70	
Managed Initial	445.20	468.60	+1.90	
-do- Acc	639.40	673.00	+3.00	
Equity Initial	670.00	705.20	+3.60	
-do- Acc	962.30	£10.12	+5.00	
Fixed Int Initial	432.90	455.60	-0.90	
-do- Acc	621.70	654.40	-1.00	
Intl Initial	427.70	450.20	+4.00	
-do- Acc	614.30	646.60	+6.00	
Nth Amer Initial	172.30	181.30	-0.50	
-do- Acc	225.10	236.90	-0.60	
Pacific Initial	225.00	236.80	+3.10	
-do- Acc	291.30	306.60	+4.10	
Property Initial	181.30	190.80	-0.20	
-do- Acc	260.40	274.10	-0.30	
Index-Lnkd Initl	156.10	164.30	-0.30	
-do- Acc	204.00	214.70	+0.50	
Deposit Initial	198.40	208.90	+0.10	
-do- Acc	285.00	300.00	+0.20	
Euro Initial	100.50	105.70	-0.90	
-do- Acc	121.80	128.20	+0.10	
HALIFAX LIFE LTD PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	24.46	25.75	+0.04	
Balanced	24.91	26.22	+0.21	
Opportunity	24.96	25.99	+0.27	
Deposit	23.89	25.14	+0.02	
Pension Funds				
Foundation	24.47	25.76	+0.15	
Balanced	24.89	26.20	+0.27	
Opportunity	24.58	25.88	+0.28	
Deposit	23.95	25.21	+0.03	
HAMBRO GUARDIAN ASSURANCE Kingsgate, 1 King Edward Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4HG. 01277 200120				
Managed	163.50	172.10	+2.00	
-do- Pens	200.30	210.80	+2.40	

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Equity	167.40	176.20	+1.80	
-do- Pens	191.00	201.00	+2.70	
International	140.90	148.30	+1.60	
-do- Pens	153.60	161.60	+1.70	
Deposit	140.90	148.30	...	
-do- Pens	167.30	176.10	+0.10	
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION 3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA 0171 638 5757				
UK Equity Fd	348.20	370.50	+3.10	
North America	340.30	362.10	-1.40	
Far East Fund	573.00	609.60	-12.50	
Global Managed	451.80	480.70	+5.30	
Deposit Fund	231.80	244.00	+0.30	
Prime Residential	138.40	145.70	-0.30	
European Fund	250.50	266.50	+3.10	
Fixed Interest	61.00	64.90	+0.20	
HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	502.00	531.30	+7.40	
British Fund	519.20	549.50	+6.70	
International	526.80	557.50	+9.00	
Dollar Fund	382.40	404.70	-0.50	
Capital Fund	469.80	497.20	+6.80	
Income Fund	679.90	719.40	+10.60	
Property Series A	463.50	490.50	-1.90	4.50
Property Units	765.70	804.00	-3.60	
Financial Fund	568.70	601.80	+10.50	
Managed Ser A	529.80	560.70	+6.00	
Managed Units	949.20	999.20	+10.70	
High Yield Fund	632.10	668.90	+5.50	
Money Series A	[illegible]	[illegible]	-0.30	
Money Units	387.20	407.60	+0.32	
Equity Fund	599.20	634.10	+8.40	
Fixed Interest	358.60	379.50	-1.70	
Indexed Secs	183.10	193.80	-2.10	
European Fund	658.90	729.90	-12.50	
Natural Res	274.90	290.80	-2.20	
Far East Fund	633.10	670.00	-25.10	
Smaller Cos	468.20	495.50	+4.50	
Special Sits	442.80	468.60	+5.80	
Man Currency	26.90	27.10	-0.50	
Japanese Tech	281.20	297.60	+15.50	
US Smaller Cos	250.40	265.70	+1.20	
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF 01727 42424				
Global Managed	558.00	587.40	+9.10	
Global Property	294.20	309.70		
Global Fixed Int	508.00	534.70	+1.00	
Global Equity	597.90	629.30	+7.60	
Global Cash	216.30	227.50	+0.20	
LAURENTIAN LIFE Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ 01452 371371				
Property	487.90	513.50	+3.60	
Managed	403.70	424.90	+4.60	
American	403.30	424.50	+4.30	
UK Equity Fd	437.20	459.90	+4.30	
Japan	165.90	174.50	-11.40	
Index-Lkd	182.40	191.90	-3.72	
High Yield	631.30	672.30	+5.40	
Money	427.90	450.20	+3.60	
International	278.30	293.00	+7.50	
Henderson Active	200.20	210.80	+1.50	
Perpetual Active	315.40	332.00	+4.20	
Growth Acc	631.90	665.10	+7.50	
Gilt Edged	429.30	451.80	+1.00	
European	152.00	160.00	+1.50	
Far East	191.70	201.70	+2.10	
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	134.20	142.10	...	
-do- Acc	188.50	198.30	+0.10	
Brit Opps Init	139.10	146.50	+1.20	
-do- Acc	177.90	187.10	+1.50	
Cash Initial	167.90	176.80	+0.20	
-do- Acc	235.20	246.60	+0.30	
Equity Initial	660.00	695.70	+7.30	
-do- Acc	951.10	£10.00	+12.90	
Fixed Initial	337.80	355.60	-0.25	
-do- Acc	595.90	626.90	-0.40	
Index-Lnkd Gilt Init	137.50	[illegible]	-0.20	
-do- Acc	191.20	201.40	-0.20	
Intl Initial	306.40	322.50	+9.10	
-do- Acc	519.70	547.10	+15.40	
Managed Initial	459.20	483.20	+6.10	
-do- Acc	706.10	743.60	+10.50	
Property Initial	278.90	293.50		
-do- Acc	374.70	394.50	+0.10	
LINCOLN NATIONAL 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB 0181 902 8876				
Equity Units	[illegible]		-0.70	
Property Units	[illegible]		-0.14	
Bal Bd Exec Unit	[illegible]	[illegible]	-0.36	
2nd Equity Acc	623.20	656.00	+5.30	
2nd High Inc Ac	575.90	606.20	-1.60	
2nd Property Acc	247.90	260.90	+1.30	
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	190.40	200.40	+0.77	
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	438.20	461.30	+0.40	
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	255.50	268.90	+2.10	
2nd Deposit Acc	285.90	300.90	+0.40	
2nd Gilt Acc	303.40	319.40	+4.00	
2nd Amer Acc	265.20	279.20	+5.10	
2nd Intl Mny Acc	277.40	292.00	-2.00	
2nd Indx Acc	204.40	215.10	-0.30	
2nd Far East Acc	423.90	446.20	+4.10	
2nd Global Acc	163.90	172.60	+2.00	
2nd Euro Acc	156.20	164.40	+0.60	
2nd Japan Acc	165.60	174.30	-2.90	
2nd Inv Cr Bd Acc	162.20	174.90	-0.10	
2nd Cap Gth Acc	125.20	131.80	-2.90	
LONDON LIFE 100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA 0117 9279179				
Equity	399.50	...	-1.00	
Fixed Interest	147.40	...	-1.60	
Property	342.00	...	-2.40	
Deposit	299.50	...	-3.10	
Mixed	392.70	...	-0.60	
Indexed Stock	210.60	...	-0.20	
International	304.50	...	-2.50	
Equity A	270.70	...	-0.30	

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Fixed Int A	£185.10	...	-0.80	
Property A	£187.20	...	-0.10	
Deposit A	£173.50	...		
Mixed A	£194.80	...	+0.20	
Index Stock A	£164.90	...	-0.20	
International A	£177.70	...	+1.50	
Equity P	£244.80	...	-0.60	
Fixed Int P	£350.10	...	-2.80	
Property P	£337.30	...	-0.50	
Deposit P	£348.40	...	-0.30	
Mixed P	£545.20	...	-0.80	
Index Stock P	£241.30	...	+0.20	
International P	£330.30	...	+3.60	
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 282456				
Inv Trust Cap	1554.40	...	+3.70	
-do- Acc	2041.40	...	-7.00	
Property Cap	£148.60	...	-0.10	
-do- Acc	£242.60	...	+0.10	
Fxd Interest Cap	£190.30	...	+0.50	
-do- Acc	£312.50	...	-1.10	
Equity Cap	£306.00	...	-2.80	
-do- Acc	£509.20	...	+5.10	
Internatl Cap	£217.70	...	-2.50	
-do- Acc	£358.80	...	+4.50	
Gtd Deposit Cap	£161.60	...	-0.10	
-do- Acc	£267.00	...	+0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap	£329.00	...	+2.90	
-do- Acc	£546.00	...	+5.10	
Moneymaker Fd	£422.20	...	+4.00	
Capital Growth	£16.49	...	+17.40	
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	405.60	426.00	+7.50	
Amer Rec Bond	471.60	495.30	+9.10	
Am Smlr Cos Bd	236.00	247.90	+1.10	
Australasia Bd	203.70	214.00	+6.50	
Commodity Bond	295.60	310.50	+7.50	
Deposit Bond Acc	365.50	383.90	+0.30	
Equity Bond Acc	£14.98	£15.62	+19.50	
European Bd Acc	369.30	387.90	+6.10	
Extra Yld Bd Acc	733.00	769.70	+1.40	
Far East Bd Acc	286.40	301.40	+0.70	
Gilt Bond Acc	435.10	457.00	-0.10	
Gold Bond Acc	140.50	147.70	+0.90	
High Yield Bond	329.80	346.40	+3.20	
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	205.10	215.40	-0.40	
International Bd	733.00	769.70	+16.40	
Japan Bond Acc	249.70	262.30	+15.20	
Japan Sm Cos Ac	239.50	251.60	+10.90	
Managed Bonds	844.20	886.50	+1.30	
Prop Bond Acc	331.00	347.60	+1.20	
Rec Bond Acc	750.20	787.80	+9.40	
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY 01903 204631				
UK Equity	218.10	229.60	+2.20	
UK Equity Acc	311.10	327.50	+3.30	
Special Sits	89.10	93.80	+0.50	
Special Sits Acc	127.20	133.90	+0.90	
North American	172.40	182.60	+0.90	
N American Acc	247.40	260.50	+1.40	
Pacific Basin	345.30	363.50	+9.00	
Pacific Basin Acc	492.70	518.70	+13.20	
Fixed Interest	275.50	290.00	-0.40	
Fixed Interest Acc	393.50	414.30	-0.20	
Property	178.90	187.90	...	
Property Acc	255.00	268.50	-0.20	
Deposit	152.30	160.30	...	
Deposit Acc	217.60	229.10	+0.10	
Managed	250.90	264.20	+2.80	
Managed Acc	329.90	347.30	+3.70	
MANULIFE GROUP St Georges Way, Stevenage, Herts 01438 356101				
Managed Fund	698.20	734.90	+5.40	
Property Fund	547.30	576.10	+0.50	
Equity Fund	943.80	993.50	+6.80	
Gilt Edged Fd	607.20	639.20	-0.50	
Deposit Fund	334.60	352.20	+0.20	
Investment Fd	382.40	402.60	+3.10	
International	523.90	551.50	+9.40	
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead, Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266366				
Property	443.30	466.60	-3.40	
UK Equity	349.70	368.10	+2.90	
Gilt Edged	566.00	595.70	+4.00	
Interest Fund	390.80	411.30	-0.20	
UK Fund	478.70	503.80	+4.80	
Intl Equity	578.20	608.60	+6.50	
Intl Managed	548.00	576.90	+5.20	
North American	215.00	226.30	+2.10	
Far East	436.50	459.40	+9.30	
Intl Currency	266.90	280.90	+1.00	
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	476.00	501.00	+6.20	
UK Equity	597.70	629.10	+7.30	
Overseas Equity	462.10	486.40	+10.90	
Americas	391.30	411.90	+9.40	
Far East	519.20	546.50	+11.10	
Property	223.00	234.70	+0.60	
Fixed Interest	382.00	402.10	+0.90	
Indexed Gilt	229.30	241.30	+0.30	
Deposit	219.20	230.70	+0.20	
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds PO Box 148, Norwich NR1 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	£14.05	£14.79	+13.90	
Equity Fund	£30.76	£32.38	+26.10	
Property Fd	577.60	608.00	-7.70	
Fixed Int Fd	584.50	615.30	-1.90	
Deposit Fund	353.40	372.00	+0.30	
Intl Fund	236.90	249.40	+4.20	
OLD MUTUAL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	284.30	299.90	+3.80	
Fxd Interest Acc	239.70	251.90	-0.50	

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
International Acc	234.40	247.30	+3.40	
Managed Acc	213.70	225.50	+2.10	
Property Acc	227.30	239.80	+1.30	
Money Acc	156.40	165.00	+0.10	
Spec Sits Acc	212.30	224.00	+0.60	
Japan Equity Acc	120.30	127.00	+6.30	
N Amer Acc	148.50	156.70	+0.40	
Pacific Acc	149.90	158.20	+1.90	
European Acc	172.20	181.70	+2.30	
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	157.50	165.80	-0.10	
Prop Acc (Gross)	331.60	349.10	+0.20	
Inv Equity	£11.89	£12.51	-10.50	
Inv Managed	839.90	884.10	+7.20	
Ret Managed	941.40	991.00	+13.00	
For Providence Capitol see Old Mutual				
PROVIDENT MUTUAL Six Hills Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2ST 01438 732000				
Managed Ord	470.10	494.80	+5.20	
Managed Initial	313.70	330.30	+3.30	
Equity Ord	716.50	754.20	+7.80	
Equity Init	478.20	503.40	+4.90	
I-Linked Gilt Ord	198.10	208.50	-0.10	
I-Linked Gilt Init	138.10	145.40	...	
Overs Equity Ord	364.50	383.70	+7.50	
Overs Equity Init	243.30	256.10	+4.80	
Property Ord	283.80	298.70	-0.50	
Property Init	189.40	199.40	-0.40	
Fixed Int Ord	277.80	292.20	-0.20	
Fixed Int Init	185.30	195.10	...	
Deposit Ord	208.80	219.80	-0.50	
Deposit Initial	139.40	146.70	+0.30	
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 0171 405 9222				
Managed	334.60	348.60	+0.80	
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3258				
Managed Fund	783.20	824.50	+10.90	
Equity Fund	£14.65	£15.43	+15.70	
Intl Fund	609.30	641.30	+14.30	
Fixed Interest	560.20	589.70	-0.30	
Property Fund	483.80	509.30	+0.70	
Cash Fund	368.70	388.20	+0.30	
Pacific Basin	340.70	358.70	+10.30	
N American Fd	250.90	264.20	+1.70	
Euro Fund	264.00	277.90	+6.00	
Balanced Fund	153.10	161.20	+2.20	
Strategic Fund	161.20	169.70	+2.40	
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45)	£722.10	...		
-do- Acc	430.60	453.30		
Op Prop	510.50	537.40		
Op Equity	938.30	987.60	+6.80	
Op High Yield	577.00	607.40	-2.40	
Op Managed	789.90	831.50	+7.70	
Op Deposit	397.10	418.10	+0.40	
Inc Gth	289.80	305.10	+1.20	
Japan Smlr	231.90	244.20	-10.50	
Managed Gth	245.40	258.40	-2.70	
Gilt	78.10	82.30	-0.40	
British	344.90	363.10	-2.20	
Global Bond	111.20	117.10	-0.10	
Global (13.34)	165.00	173.70	+3.50	
Gold Share	78.90	83.10	-1.30	
High Income	284.80	299.80	+2.20	
Income	409.40	431.00	+8.70	
Japan	407.00	428.50	-21.70	
UK Smlr Cos	326.20	343.40	-3.00	
Mngd Growth	434.80	457.70	-0.30	
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3000				
Royal Shield Fd	956.50	£10.12	+10.00	
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	379.30	399.20	+4.20	
Equity Fund	542.40	570.90	+6.10	
Property Fund	338.70	356.50	...	
International	461.90	486.30	+11.10	
Pacific Basin	253.80	267.10	+7.60	
United States	256.60	270.00	-0.70	
Gilt Fund	362.70	381.70	...	
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	761.50	805.90	+5.40	2.76
Deposit Fund (2)	376.30	398.30	+0.40	6.77
Gilt Fund	512.90	542.80	-1.20	8.44
Global Equity Fd	230.60	244.10	+3.00	
Property Fund (4)	112.40	119.00	...	6.64
AG Bond Fund	140.40	149.60	+0.90	
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	586.00	616.90	+7.10	
Fixed Interest	369.70	389.20	+1.10	
Index-Linked	193.30	203.50	-0.40	
International	446.30	469.80	+9.40	
Property	303.00	319.00	-0.30	
Cash	232.90	245.20	+0.30	
Managed	463.40	487.80	+6.30	
Cap Gtrd Bd	113.80	119.80	+1.60	
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	183.50	193.16	+0.12	
Index-Linked	160.00	168.40	-0.10	
Fixed Interest	172.20	181.30	-1.30	
Mixed	252.60	265.90	+1.10	
UK Equity	240.20	252.90	+1.80	
International	252.40	265.70	+3.30	
American	251.20	264.40	-3.00	
Japan	229.20	241.30	+6.90	
European	251.50	266.80	+3.50	
Pacific	330.80	348.20	-0.40	
Technology	366.80	386.10	+1.30	
Currency Currncy	231.70	243.90	-0.70	

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	222.60	234.40	-4.90	
UK Equity	349.40	367.90	+1.00	
American	244.50	257.50	-3.40	
Pacific	333.90	351.60	+9.40	
European	474.40	499.50	+8.90	
International	301.20	317.20	+2.90	
Fixed Interest	231.90	244.20	-1.50	
Index Linked	193.20	203.50	...	
Deposit	196.80	207.30	+0.30	
Managed	281.40	296.40	+0.70	
Worldwide	118.10	124.40	+2.40	
Pen Worldwide	125.20	131.90	+3.00	
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	£15.07	£16.47	...	
Safety Fund	233.00	245.30	+0.20	
Growth Fund	225.20	237.10	+1.80	
Opportunity Fd	222.30	234.00	+4.40	
Cash Fund	176.50	185.80	+0.10	
European Fund	329.30	346.70	+5.30	
Gilts & Fxd Int	198.70	209.20	-0.80	
Index-Linked Fd	179.30	188.80	...	
International Fd	271.90	286.30	+4.10	
North American	228.90	241.00	-0.30	
Property Fund	131.70	138.70	+2.00	
UK Equity	241.80	254.60	+1.90	
UK Smaller	228.00	240.10	+1.90	
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	261.10	274.90	+3.40	
Equity	273.40	287.90	+3.90	
International	263.90	277.90	+5.70	
Property	234.50	246.90	+0.10	
Fixed Interest	220.00	231.70	+0.90	
Index Linked	177.70	187.10	-0.30	
Cash	188.80	198.40	+0.20	
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	784.30	834.40	+13.60	
Cash Fund	343.20	361.20	+0.30	
Property Fund	296.30	312.30	-0.10	
Equity Fund	881.00	937.30	+15.90	
Fxd Interest Fund	460.00	484.80	+2.60	
International	382.40	406.90	+8.10	
High Income	691.60	735.80	+12.10	
Far East	535.60	569.80	+12.50	
North American	523.40	556.90	+8.10	
Special Sits	637.70	678.50	+12.10	
Technology	597.30	635.50	+1.20	
Extra Income Fd	375.70	399.70	+2.60	
Gilt Fund	478.30	508.90	+2.30	
European	147.70	157.20	+2.80	
Adventurous Mg	211.50	222.70	+4.30	
Secure Mgd	147.20	155.20	+1.10	
Equity Inc Dist	112.80	118.90	+2.10	4.94
North American	107.80	113.60	+0.90	5.28
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	899.70	899.70	...	
Inv Pol 2	817.10	860.20	...	
Inv Pol 3	779.80	830.90	...	
Inv Cash	318.60	335.50	...	
Mixed Fund	438.60	461.80	+2.50	
Equity Fund	523.80	551.50	+3.10	
Property Fund	248.10	261.20		
International Fd	463.30	487.80	+4.70	
Fixed Interest Fd	371.90	391.60	-1.50	
Indexed Stock Fd	193.80	204.10	-1.30	
Cash Fund	230.70	243.00	+0.20	
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	372.10	391.60	+1.90	
Equity Acc	443.00	466.30	+2.60	
International Acc	342.90	360.90	+7.20	
Property	231.60	243.70	+0.30	
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO 3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ 0131 225 2552				
Cash	271.50	285.80	+0.20	
Equity	993.70	£10.46	+8.40	
European	169.30	178.30	+3.00	
Far East	165.80	174.60	+4.70	
Fixed Interest	394.90	415.70	-1.80	
Index Linked	206.30	217.20	-0.90	
International	605.00	636.90	+11.10	
Managed	695.10	731.70	+7.40	
Nth American	144.60	152.20	...	
Property	366.60	385.90	-0.20	
Pensions				
Cash	424.10	446.50	+0.50	
Equity	£14.44	£15.20	+16.70	
European	200.70	211.30	+4.40	
Far East	132.10	139.10	+9.00	
Fixed Interest	549.10	578.00	-2.10	
Index Linked	287.20	302.40	-0.50	
International	844.40	888.90	+21.00	
Managed	981.60	£10.33	+13.30	
Nth American	178.90	188.40	-0.50	
Property	498.60	524.90	-1.10	
Stock Exchange	220.80	232.50	+3.10	
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	650.50	684.80	+9.30	
Equity Fund	851.30	896.40	+9.20	
Fixed Interest Fd	408.30	429.80	-1.50	
Index-Linked Fd	314.80	331.40	...	
Property Fund	526.40	554.30	+0.90	
International Fd	622.10	654.90	+17.50	
N American Fd	229.60	241.70	-0.80	
Far East Fund	216.70	228.20	+5.70	
Deposit Fund	300.70	316.60	+0.30	
International Bd	£181.53	...	+1.19	
Worldwide Bond	156.20	164.40	...	
European	160.40	168.50	+3.10	
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	641.30	675.10	+1.30	
Ebor Phoenix Eq	453.10	483.10	...	

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Property Growth				
Property Fund	£608.40	...	+0.90	
-do- Acc	£367.00	...	+0.80	
Agricultural Fd	£832.40	...	+0.60	
-do- Acc	£799.60	...	-0.90	
Abbey Nat Fd	£450.50	...	-0.50	
Abbey Nat Acc	£475.90	...	+0.80	
Investment Fd	£346.40	...	+4.70	
Investment (A)	£352.40	...	+4.50	
Equity	£612.40	...	+12.80	
Equity Acc	£611.87	...	+12.10	
Money Fund	£480.10	...	+0.50	
-do- Acc	£658.60	...	+0.40	
Actuarial Fd	£573.70	...	+6.60	
Gilt-Edged Fd	£382.50	...	-1.40	
-do- Acc	£382.50	...	-1.40	
Retire Annuity	£612.56	...	...	
Immed Annuity	£307.50	...	...	
Bldg Soc Life	£229.20	...	+0.20	
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Account	£14.55	...	+35.00	
Managed Acc	£816.60	...		
Equity Account	£11.58	...		
Mngd Fund Acc	375.30	395.00		
Equity Fund Acc	305.40	322.00		
Prop Fund Acc	266.60	280.70		
Fixed Int Fd Acc	305.40	321.50		
Money Fund Acc	223.80	235.60		
Indx-Lnk Sec Ac	201.70	212.40		
Pers Pens Acct	£18.81	...	+33.10	
Pens Mngd Acct	874.50	920.50	+25.90	
Pens Guarantee	258.40	272.00	+1.70	
Pens Equity	336.20	354.00	-14.80	
Pens Property	308.30	324.60	+1.30	
Pens Fixed Int	284.80	299.80	+4.80	
Pens Intl	235.90	248.30	+3.00	
Pens Money	240.30	252.90	+1.10	
Pens Indx-Lnkd	193.80	204.00	-2.20	
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	881.10	927.50	+11.40	
Property Acc	308.60	324.90	+1.70	
Equity Acc	£14.39	£15.15	+16.80	
Fixed Int Acc	396.30	417.20	-0.60	
Cash Acc	313.20	329.70	+0.30	
Amer Equity Acc	366.80	386.20	+4.80	
Japan Acc	292.10	307.50	+15.40	
Pacific Acc	348.10	366.50	+3.60	
Far Eastern Acc	812.60	855.40	+13.60	
International Acc	573.70	603.90	+10.80	
Distribution Fund	269.90	284.30	+0.20	6.16
European	188.10	198.10	+3.40	
Deffrd Dist	165.60	174.40	+0.70	
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	279.50	294.30	+2.00	
Property Fund	230.40	242.60	+0.30	
Fixed Interest Fd	222.10	233.90		
Money Fund	202.60	213.40	+0.10	
Equity Fund	360.10	379.10	+4.40	
TARGET LIFE The Exchange, 66 High Street, Aylesbury, Bucks 01296 394000				
Deposit	252.10	265.30	+0.20	
Financial Ser I	45.60	48.90	+0.30	
Fixed Interest	324.30	341.50	+0.30	
Gold	76.70	80.90	+2.20	
Managed	609.40	641.60	+17.60	
Mngd Growth	194.50	204.80	+8.90	
Mngd Opp	204.90	215.80	+9.70	
Property	329.60	346.90	-3.70	
Residential Prop	101.50	106.90	-0.20	
TSB American	193.30	203.50	+1.70	
TSB Brit Gwth	847.20	891.90	+22.00	
TSB European	255.90	269.30	+4.90	
TSB Income	379.40	399.40	+12.20	
TSB Ind	407.40	428.80	+14.00	
TSB Intl Inc	282.20	297.10	+3.50	
TSB Pacific	392.80	413.60	+16.40	
TSB Prem Inc	252.10	265.40	+4.00	
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	672.80	709.00	+8.90	
Money Fund	321.20	338.10	+0.20	
Equity Fund	592.50	624.30	+1.70	
Fixed Interest	274.80	289.60	-0.60	
Property Fund	362.30	381.40	-4.00	
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	568.80	599.40	+0.30	
Income	734.40	773.90	-7.50	
International Gth	615.80	649.00	+12.10	
Capital Fund	588.10	619.30	-10.30	
Recovery Fund	615.80	648.90	+3.40	
Japan & General	250.00	263.40	+6.40	
Formerly Altma				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	18.28	19.24	+0.02	
Bear	19.22	20.23	-0.01	
Owl	20.19	21.25	+0.11	
Bull	17.40	18.32	+0.13	
Stag	17.56	18.49	+0.06	
Gilt Edged	18.42	19.39	+0.07	
Deposit	15.98	16.82	+0.01	
Pensions				
Squirrel	24.90	26.21	+0.03	
Bear	26.41	28.01	-0.03	
Owl	27.11	28.54	+0.15	
Bull	22.23	23.40	+0.16	
Stag	21.91	23.06	+0.09	
Gilt Edged	23.28	24.51	+0.04	
Deposit	20.71	21.80	+0.02	
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund	594.51	...	+4.07	
1982 Series				
UK Equity	330.90	348.32	+1.06	
N Amer Equity	275.44	289.94	+3.17	
Far East Equity	343.64	361.73	+1.35	
Fixed	290.40	305.66	+0.87	
Cash Deposit	207.30	218.21	+0.14	
Property	154.51	162.64	-0.19	
Special Opp	332.25	349.74	+0.59	
Managed	298.34	314.04	+2.26	
Index-Linked Fd	187.81	197.69	+0.29	

هكذا من الأصل

Dig in for

Pep choice that ma[illegible] cramp your style

CGT ALLOWANCES — FEBRUARY

Ian Hunter looks at the potential rewards from hunting for treasure

Dig in for rich pickings

If you despair of winning the National Lottery, yet dream of becoming rich overnight, digging for treasure could be the answer.

As Eric Lawes, a retired gardener, discovered, all you need is a metal detector, some enthusiasm, and a lot of luck.

In 1992, Mr Lawes was responsible for one of Britain's greatest treasure finds. While searching a field in Hoxne, Suffolk, he discovered more than 500 gold and 15,000 silver coins, together with a further 200 objects, including gold bracelets and silver spoons. The find dates back to the 5th century.

Finds are not restricted to antiquities. According to Edward Fletcher, a leading writer on metal detecting, 20,000 engagement rings are found on British beaches every year.

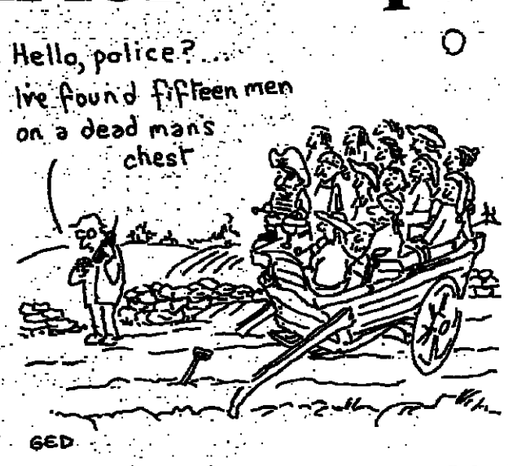
The laws relating to treasure hunting date back to Edward 1. The general position is that if the original owner of an object cannot be located by reasonable means, the finder can keep what he or she has found. However, if the true owner should re-appear, the finder must hand over what has been found.

If the owner of gold or silver objects, which have been deliberately concealed, cannot be traced, the property is declared treasure trove and becomes the property of the Crown.

The rules do not extend to coins and other antiquities made of copper, bronze or other base metals. Nor does it include property deliberately abandoned or lost.

Treasure trove applies only if the last owner intended to recover the property at a later date. Any find must not be concealed and should be reported to the local coroner, the police, or the local museum. It should then be handed over. If finders fail to comply, they may be convicted of theft.

A coroner may decide to hold an inquest to decide whether the find is treasure trove. Coroners will also rule on any dispute over the identity of the finder. If the haul is declared treasure trove, it will be offered to the local museum or, if it is exceptional, to the British Museum.



The finder will be paid the market value for the find, which is assessed by an independent committee appointed by the Treasury. It is then possible for the British Museum, or another museum, to acquire the find on the payment of the market value.

The sum paid is passed on to the finder by the Department of National Heritage as an ex-gratia reward. It is intended to encourage the proper reporting of finds. If no museum wants the treasure trove, it will be returned to the finder.

The frequency with which inquests are held depends on the local coroner. Any payment is made to the actual finder and not to the owner of the land on which it is found.

The British Museum is supporting a new Treasure Bill that, if implemented, will change the law governing treasure trove. The main aims are to remove the need to show that objects have been deliberately concealed; to make clear how much gold or silver the goods found must contain in order to qualify as treasure trove; to include objects found in association with finds of treasure within the definition of treasure trove.

The Bill would also make it easier to determine what treasure trove is and would provide a new offence of non-declaration of treasure.

The British Museum is usually interested to hear about any finds. The student rooms at the museum will help to identify objects, generally without appointment. However the museum will not carry out valuations.

Both the leading auction houses, Sotheby's and Christie's, offer free verbal valuations. Written valuations for insurance, inheritance tax or other purposes are also available. Advice can be obtained on applications for export licences.

Metal detectors vary greatly in price, depending on their sophistication. Some can be bought for as little as £50, others can cost £700.

Potential treasure sites can be located by sifting through old public library records. Old market and fair sites are often rich hunting grounds. Old maps and local historical societies can also provide sources of useful information.

Some metal-detector clubs organise weekend trips and pay farmers for the right to search their land. Many enter into share agreements by which half the value of any find is shared with the landowner.

There is a code of practice for users of metal detectors. It cautions them not to trespass and to ask permission before venturing on to private land. All unusual finds should be reported to the landowner.

Users should also be aware that it is illegal to use a metal detector on a listed ancient monument unless permission has been obtained from the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Pep choice that may cramp your style

Single-company personal equity plans can be an attractive option if you want to invest direct in shares and take your dividends and any capital gains free from tax.

Many existing shareholders are being encouraged to transfer their holdings into these plans. But if you choose the same shares for several years running, you could find you are cramping your style for the future.

Under the current Pep rules, you can invest up to £3,000 a year in one company's shares in addition to your general Pep allowance of £6,000, which can be spread among shares, unit and investment trusts.

Most single-company Pep business is corporate sponsored. Companies such as British Gas, Boots and Scottish & Newcastle run single-company Peps for their own shareholders and employees.

The attraction of corporate single-company Peps is that they tend to have lower annual costs than self-select single-company Peps offered by plan managers that let you choose whichever shares you want.

But one of the ways in which the costs of the corporate plans are kept low is by merging the annual allowances of investors who put money in for more than one year. This will lead to problems if you want to change your investment strategy in future.

There is nothing to stop you transferring your Pep to another plan manager — although some corporate single-company Peps levy hefty transfer penalties of £50 or more — but you will not be able to unscramble the different Pep years' allowances.

You will have to transfer the whole amount and if you want to buy other shares you will have to switch the total into one new holding.

You cannot diversify your portfolio unless you cash in, which will mean that you lose all or part of a previous year's Pep allowance.

At the Bank of Scotland, which operates its own self-select single-company Pep as well as a number of corporate plans, Douglas Tait explains: "With our self-select plan, we keep each year's plan separate so that even if investors choose the same share for several years, they could subsequently sell one year's shares and invest somewhere else. But this would not be possible with our corporate single-company Peps, where each year's allowance is merged into one plan."

Nick Nichols of the Pep Managers' Association, agrees: "The 'all or nothing' rule for merged Peps does seem unfair on investors." The association has been pressing the Government for some time for changes in the rules on single-company Peps to make them more like general Peps. "They must also be transferred as one entity from one manager to another if they have been merged, but their investments can be diversified."

HELEN PRIDHAM

CGT Allowance

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in February 1995

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
January	-	0.778	0.692	0.611	0.526	0.469	0.422
February	-	0.771	0.685	0.598	0.521	0.463	0.417
March	0.849	0.767	0.679	0.583	0.519	0.460	0.411
April	0.813	0.743	0.657	0.550	0.504	0.443	0.398
May	0.800	0.736	0.651	0.543	0.501	0.442	0.383
June	0.795	0.731	0.647	0.540	0.502	0.442	0.378
July	0.794	0.722	0.649	0.543	0.506	0.443	0.377
August	0.794	0.715	0.633	0.538	0.502	0.439	0.361
September	0.795	0.707	0.630	0.539	0.494	0.435	0.355
October	0.786	0.701	0.620	0.537	0.492	0.428	0.342
November	0.777	0.695	0.615	0.532	0.480	0.421	0.335
December	0.780	0.691	0.617	0.529	0.475	0.422	0.332
	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
January	0.323	0.229	0.128	0.083	0.065	0.040	0.006
February	0.314	0.222	0.122	0.078	0.058	0.034	
March	0.308	0.210	0.118	0.075	0.055	0.031	
April	0.285	0.174	0.104	0.058	0.045	0.019	
May	0.277	0.164	0.100	0.055	0.041	0.015	
June	0.273	0.159	0.095	0.055	0.042	0.015	
July	0.272	0.159	0.098	0.058	0.044	0.020	
August	0.269	0.147	0.095	0.058	0.040	0.015	
September	0.260	0.136	0.091	0.054	0.035	0.013	
October	0.250	0.127	0.087	0.050	0.036	0.012	
November	0.240	0.130	0.083	0.052	0.037	0.011	
December	0.237	0.131	0.083	0.055	0.035	0.006	

The RI month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

THE TIMES WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Stay-at-home mothers and tax

From Frances Savin

Sir, As Anne Ashworth says in her article (Weekend Money, March 18) on the ongoing reduction in the value of the married couple's allowance, it is unfair to give one partner a higher allowance — when both are taxpayers. In fact, the people who gained the most material advantage when the 1990 reform of personal taxation was introduced were those high-earning couples who had previously opted for independent taxation, and lost the then married man's allowance. Subsequently, they enjoyed two-and-a-half personal allowances, presumably Mr Clarke's "bit of an anomaly".

What of the still many women who wish to remain in the home, and have little or no income? Particularly when their children are young, there is a high proportion of full-time mothers or fathers. The original purpose of the former married man's allowance was to recognise the costs of being a couple. This is now being whittled away. The 1986 Green Paper, which prepared the ground for 1990, suggested that the allowance be replaced by allowing the transfer of the unused tax allowance to the earning partner. This was not implemented and thus we fall between two stools.

The recent findings of the Rowntree report indicate that families with children suffer disproportionate poverty. Our organisation believes that some fiscal recognition of the work and social contribution of mothers would lead to a healthier society.

Yours sincerely,
FRANCES SAVIN
(Chairman),
Full Time Mothers,
3 Wakelin Chase,
Ingatestone, Essex.

Ernie should have a time limit

From Mr P. G. Couillault

Sir, It would seem that the popularity of Premium Bonds remains very infectious with more and more punters investing in them. There is, however, one area of the scheme which needs to be addressed without further delay.

Despite an increase in the top prize, the number of unclaimed prizes has risen to £12 million and is still rising. Is there any sense in allowing such an absurd situation to continue unchecked? I think not.

The Bonds and Stocks Office should seriously consider re-allocating unclaimed prizes to the prize fund. Moreover, a time limit, not exceeding six months, should be imposed on all those wishing to claim unpaid prizes.

Public interest in this matter could be heightened, by bringing to the attention of all claimants, a notice board in all Crown Post Offices, making it easier to reduce the ever-increasing number of prizes that are rising by the month.

Yours faithfully,
PETER G. COUILLAULT,
89 Eight Acres,
Tring,
Hertfordshire.

British Gas saga

From Mrs H. A. Kent

Sir, On reading Alan H. Green's letter (Weekend Money, March 25) I felt I had to add my penny's worth.

When I received my quarterly bill in October 1994, I saw it had not been stamped in the usual way with the red stamp "paid by direct debit". I made two phone calls with no result: so I wrote to the customer liaison officer on November 19, but received no reply. On receiving my November/December bank statement, I found that British Gas had debited my account twice within three days. I wrote again to the customer liaison officer on December 18. I received a reply on January 11 telling me that the affair was being "looked into". Then, I received a revised bill, giving me a credit for both debits. Before I could do anything about this, I received yet another bill from the billing officer telling me that unless this bill was paid immediately, British Gas would have to consider refusing me this type of payment.

On March 16, I sent British Gas a copy of everything that I had received or sent. Of course, I have not yet received a reply.

Yours wrathfully,
H. A. KENT,
52 Manor Court,
Bagleys Lane, SW6.

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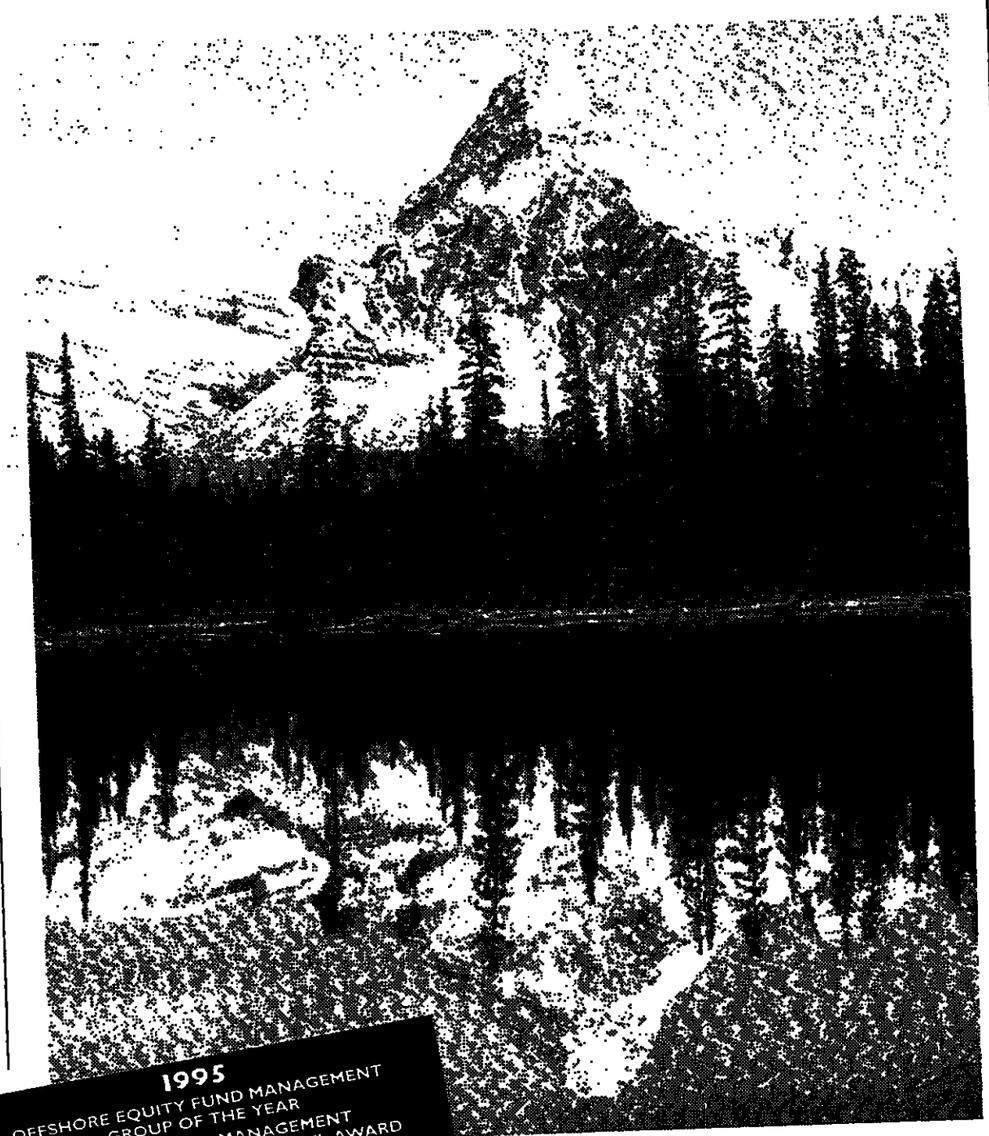
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THE INTERNATIONAL OFFSHORE FINANCIAL REVIEW

OFFSHORE FUND PERFORMANCE TO 1ST MARCH 1995

PERPETUAL OFFSHORE FUNDS	SINCE LAUNCH: LAUNCH DATE	% CHANGE	POSITION IN SECTOR	OVER 5 YEARS: % CHANGE
International Growth	25-1-83	+428.3	3 out of 25	+47.3
Emerging Companies	8-4-85	+533.5	1 out of 38	+128.0
American Growth	21-4-84	+724.2	1 out of 22	+142.4
Far Eastern Growth	28-11-86	+341.1	1 out of 19	+70.4
Japanese Growth	30-11-91	+25.7	4 out of 89	
European Growth	9-11-86	+118.5	7 out of 22	+14.7
UK Growth	24-10-87	+201.7	1 out of 31	+107.1
Global Bond	7-12-92	+4.1	119 out of 143	
Asian Smaller Markets	8-2-93	+51.4	10 out of 94	
Latin American Growth	31-1-95	-7.2	19 out of 42	

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST PRICES SERVICE

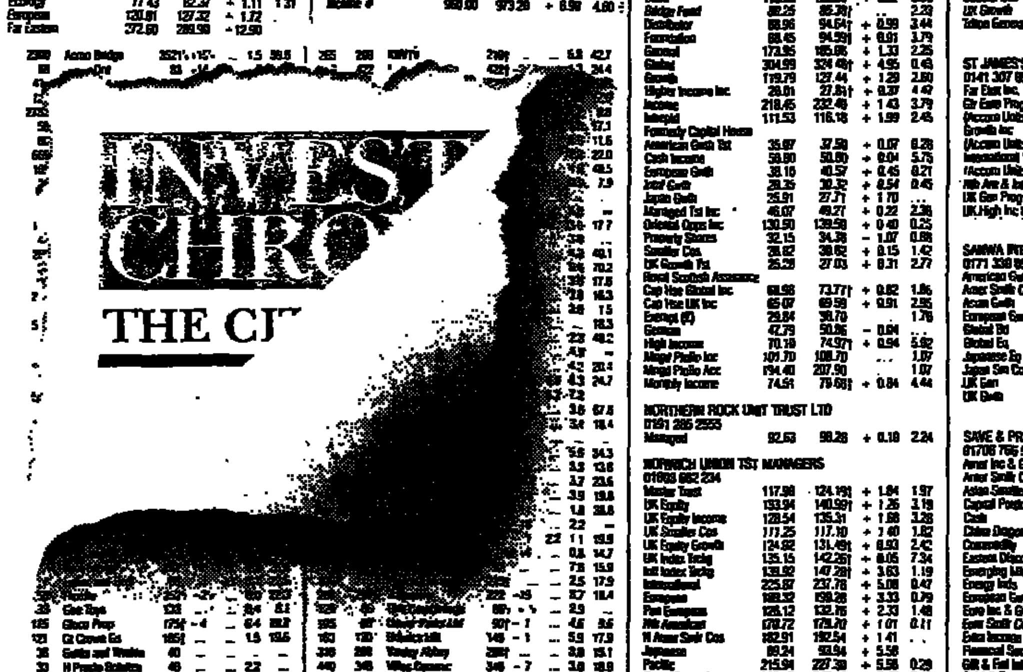
	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 01835 259 783				
Enhanced Amer	161.10	170.40	+0.80	0.22
Enhanced Equity	234.40	249.40	+2.30	2.12
Enhanced Euro	196.90	208.40	+5.30	0.54
Enhanced Eqt Bal	108.30	112.30		2.99
Enhanced Gilt	73.26	75.53	-0.43	5.34
Enhanced Japan	154.00	163.00	+9.40	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS 01203 553 231				
General Acc	532.90	568.00†	+8.10	2.95
General Inc	465.40	495.20†	+7.10	2.95
UK Growth Acc	359.30	382.30	+4.70	3.01
UK Growth Inc	245.90	261.70	+3.20	3.01
Higher Inc Acc	664.40	708.90	+10.40	4.16
Higher Inc Inc	384.00	408.60	+6.10	4.16
Gilt, Fxd Int Acc	186.70	197.10†	+0.20	5.98
Gilt, Fxd Int Inc	88.47	93.45†	+0.13	5.98
Nth America	266.60	283.70	+2.00	...
Far East	332.10	353.40	+12.10	0.32
Europe	266.30	283.30†	+5.40	0.98
Bal Exempt	72.41	77.04	+1.99	3.12
Bal Fxd/Inc Acc	100.10	106.50†	+0.89	5.00
Bal Fxd/Inc Inc	71.78	76.26†	+0.53	5.08
Global Opps	82.44	87.71	+1.68	0.49
Balanced Acc	53.44	56.86	+0.62	3.17
Balanced Inc	52.15	55.48	+0.61	3.17
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS 0345 717 373				
High Income:				
Gilt & Fixed Int	126.50	134.20†		7.45
High Inc Equity	160.20	170.40	+4.40	4.62
Worldwide Bond	269.00	285.40†		4.56
Capital Growth:				
American Growth	279.10	298.90	+2.30	.80
Asian Pacific	293.80	312.50	+3.30	...
Assets & Earnings	252.30	268.40	-3.49	3.07
Commodity & Energy	93.81	99.80†	+0.66	.13
Euro Capital Inc	130.60	138.90	+4.40	.70
(Accum Units)	139.50	148.40	+4.70	.70
General	225.00	239.40†	+2.10	2.27
Japan	113.60	120.80	+7.80	...
Mastertrust	136.20	144.90	+4.00	1.95
UK Growth Dist	115.60	123.00	+5.10	3.13
UK Emerging Cos	130.80	139.20	+0.70	...
Income & Growth	375.80	399.80	+5.20	3.13
Ethical	64.64	68.77	+0.42	3.18
International	107.50	114.40	-3.20	.52
Scotland & Growth	58.71	62.46	+0.61	4.50
Global Cash & Sec	66.91	71.37	+0.25	2.91
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	£16.50	£16.84	+15.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	44.17	45.86	+0.83	0.67
Cash	50.19	50.19†	-0.04	5.83
Emerging Mkts	62.51	66.12	+1.14	0.05
European	106.30	111.00†	-2.40	...
Exempt	922.50	990.40	+0.90	1.83
Extra Income #	43.99	47.09†	+0.12	6.40
Far East Emg Eco	106.20	112.50	+1.30	0.55
Fixed Interest #	21.60	22.67†	+0.03	9.12
Fund Inv Tst	153.00	161.00	-0.32	1.04
Japan	174.00	182.70	+8.00	...
Latin American	44.37	46.56	+1.98	1.84
Pacific	68.29	72.68	+1.31	0.37
Property Share	59.58	62.54	+0.53	2.18
UK Emerging Cos	59.58	62.54	-0.06	1.98
UK Growth	43.02	45.60	+0.43	2.57
World Port #	69.99	71.10	+0.99	2.30
Ethical	59.20	62.14	+0.50	2.83
Aberdeen Grt Inc #	43.02	49.02†	-0.06	7.65
AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0131 549 3232				
British Growth	68.38	72.72†	+0.65	3.00
Enrich Income	79.80	84.89†	+0.96	3.79
Select Portfolio	82.00	87.24†	+1.27	.
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD 01452 305 958				
Amity Income	72.35	76.76†	+0.42	2.68
Income Builder Inc	66.47	70.71	+8.86	3.88
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC Enq: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	221.40	226.60†	-1.60	3.30
Capital	393.00	415.60†	-1.80	1.59
Balanced	657.00	702.30†	+2.40	2.63
Accumulator	£12.26	£13.10	+12.00	3.10
Income Trusts				
Extra Income	46.51	49.71	-0.56	3.50
High Income	378.70	404.80†	+3.10	3.81
Equity Income	214.60	229.40	+1.50	3.63
High Yield	232.70	248.70	-1.80	3.49
Gilt Securities	32.87	34.70†	-0.13	6.11
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	141.90	151.60†	-2.70	0.46
European Growth	32.47	34.64	+0.48	0.01
International	148.40	158.50†	+1.70	0.21
Japan	186.60	198.80†	+11.20	0.01
Pacific	352.80	377.10	+10.67	0.81
Cos of America	413.60	440.20†	-10.70	0.52
Asian Acc	45.13	48.24	-0.80	0.25
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	507.60	542.60†	+2.80	2.35
Corp & Gilt	41.70	44.57	+0.21	5.21
Smaller Cos	158.40	169.30	-1.00	1.31
2nd Smaller Cos	150.20	160.50†	+0.80	1.51
Recovery	132.20	141.30	+1.20	1.85
Met Min & Cdty	142.10	151.90	+0.40	0.78
Sceco Earnings	336.90	359.70†	-1.00	1.87
Technology	157.10	167.90	-0.60	0.01
UK Special Sits	439.00	469.20†	+4.40	1.85
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 01293 526 911				
Fixed Int Pens	95.31	99.02	...	3.64
Fourth Pecl Pens	59.32	61.63	...	1.44
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 600 0033				
Capital	69.92	74.38	-0.84	2.16
International	60.32	64.17	+0.67	
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD 0131 222 4242				
American	257.90	276.10	-2.80	
Bond	111.10	116.90	+0.60	7.12
Brit Smlr Cos	93.68	99.68	-1.17	1.90
Corp & Gen #	62.49	66.43†	+0.49	5.91
Europe	208.00	221.60	+3.20	0.63
Euro Smlr Cos	93.55	99.66	+0.72	0.62
Income Grwth	323.90	344.60†	-0.46	4.51
Japan	289.40	307.20	+18.40	
Latin American	57.86	61.55	+3.42	...
Pacific	98.51	104.80	+1.70	1.47
UK Smlr Cos	49.98	53.15	+0.51	1.45
Japan Fd	834.20	852.50†	+31.80	...
Mngd Fd	168.30	179.00	+1.90	3.14
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD 0171 489 8673				
Hi Inc & Gwth	269.80	284.00	+3.50	1.30
Capital Gwth	107.40	113.10	-1.00	2.37
World Opps	168.90	177.80	+0.30	0.45
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD 0181 534 5544				
Balanced Trusts				
Eur Inv Fd Inc	335.60	349.80	+3.60	3.19
European Bd Inc	88.30	91.48	+0.64	7.83
General	72.16	76.97	+1.10	4.35
Financial	72.97	78.05	+0.70	2.84
500	417.70	446.70†	+3.50	2.78
General	260.90	279.60†	+2.10	2.59
Property	244.20	265.40	+0.30	6.52
Trustee	175.10	187.00	+2.10	2.58
Income Trusts				
Extra Inc	100.00	100.00†	-0.90	5.40
Extra Income	114.10	122.00	+1.40	4.31
Gilt & Fxd Int	56.01	57.83†	-0.06	8.88
Income	500.80	535.70	+6.60	4.28
Income Builder	59.60	63.41†	+0.83	5.06
Ind Income	59.06	62.83	+0.57	3.84
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	113.20	120.70†	+0.90	2.71
Leisure	118.00	126.25	+1.50	1.69
Recovery	397.80	425.50	+3.70	2.99
Smlr Cos Inc	41.41	44.41	+0.34	2.30
Special Sits	271.50	290.40	+2.60	1.85
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	125.50	133.20	+1.40	0.81
Australia	218.60	232.60	-1.40	2.31
Euro Acc	134.50	143.10	-0.80	2.31
Euro Grth Inc	141.40	151.10	-3.50	1.29
(Accum Units)	151.30	160.60	+4.20	1.29
Japan & Gen Inc	159.40	168.80†	-5.30	
(Accum Units)	161.20	170.70	-5.30	
Japan Spec Sit	74.00	78.33	+4.05	...
Gen Tech Inc	75.97	80.67	+0.92	0.02
Worldwide	158.30	168.00	+3.20	1.07
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD 0171 214 1004				
American Growth	31.33	36.96	+1.24	
Amer Smlr Cos	126.20	133.40	+1.80	
Convertibles	51.58	55.84†	-0.14	5.70
Eastern	290.80	271.00	-3.10	0.30
Equity Income	28.41	30.54	+0.89	4.90
European Growth	265.10	282.60	+2.60	0.60
Europe	211.00	224.90	-4.60	0.23
German Growth	73.36	73.50	-0.38	0.50
Global Bond	62.05	65.32	+0.21	6.30
Global Growth	119.85	126.60	+2.40	
Japan Growth	183.00	131.60	-9.60	
Japan Smaller	146.30	155.60	-3.40	
Japan Trust	75.45	83.24	-0.93	
Portfolio	123.90	132.10†	+1.30	1.80
(Accum Units)	227.20	244.10	+2.30	1.80
UK Growth	79.72	85.70	+0.93	2.20
UK Smaller Cos	77.67	84.84	-0.81	1.80
South Managed	71.03	76.77	+1.16	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD 0171 250 3300				
Int Gwth Port Inc	71.86	76.45	+3.33	
Special Oppor Inc	52.21	55.54	-1.56	
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD 0141 223 6000				
Balanced Growth	103.75	103.73†	+2.15	1.97
(Accum Units)	117.69	124.54	+3.54	1.97
Smaller Cos	105.49	105.33	-5.31	1.26
Higher Yield #	42.64	45.52†	-0.10	4.76
European Cos Inc	71.33	75.54†	-0.42	
European Growth	122.12	129.24†	+3.43	
(Accum Units)	124.52	131.76	-3.55	
Global Bond Inc #	29.26	37.21	-0.61	3.29
Mngd Portfolio Acc	33.71	41.80†	+1.06	1.54
(Accum Units)	40.48	42.61	+1.09	1.54
Pacific Basin	105.63	111.14	+2.83	
Pacific Grth	115.97	122.72	+7.07	
Formerly LAC				
UK General #	73.55	77.83	-1.78	3.73
(Accum Units) #	75.31	79.83	-1.82	3.73
Japan	57.10	60.51	+5.14	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	92.90	95.81†	+0.02	7.93
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0171 420 7216				
First Gilted Ed	62.67	63.47†	+0.21	6.45
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD 0161 837 5060				
Equity	149.00	158.60	-1.90	1.87
UK Growth	162.80	173.20†	-2.00	2.47
UK Income	129.50	137.80	-1.50	4.55
CANADA LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD 01707 651 122				
Can Gen Dist	179.70	190.50	+2.30	2.08
Income Dist	105.20	111.80	+1.20	4.49
(Accum Units)	317.60	336.70	+3.60	4.49
Gilt & Fxd Int	33.95	41.18†	-0.13	6.80
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD 0161 236 5685 Enq 0161 236 5685 Dlg 0161 236 5362				
American & Gen	151.40	161.10†	+2.50	...
European Inc	73.98	78.25	+1.19	0.59
Smaller Cos (4-1)	76.01	80.87†	+0.36	2.33
Growth	402.70	428.50†	+3.20	2.36
Income & Growth	394.80	420.10	+5.60	4.10
Pacific	563.40	599.40	-7.90	4.10
Japan & Gen	69.95	71.25†	+4.49	
Global Portfolio	137.47	£101.00	+21.64	2.57
(Accum Units)	£116.23	£120.49	+£1.96	2.57
Capital Sts	92.99	98.93	+1.54	2.32
High Yield	£12.87	£13.20	+18.00	4.57
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 0171 606 0708				
European Portfolio	83.34	85.68	+0.62	2.57
Financial Portfolio	91.13	97.02	+0.24	1.20
European Portfolio	88.54	94.76	+0.87	0.84
Japanese Portfolio	61.57	65.42†	+3.80	...
Pacific Portfolio	127.00	136.56	+1.26	0.96
UK Inc & Growth	73.50	78.72	-0.47	3.38
UK Fxd Bond	52.65	53.29	+0.18	7.20

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG 0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	636.50	638.69		4.87
Fxd Int Sec	145.85	146.00	...	9.93
CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0171 332 5000				
UK General Tst	61.50	65.42	+0.69	3.04
COIF-CHARITIES OFFICIAL INV FD 0171 588 1815				
Inc	625.05	625.22		4.97
Accum	£28.90	£28.98		
Fixed Int Inc	119.09	119.16		9.73
Fixed Int Acc	187.15	187.60		
CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD 0171 637 7667				
Intl Growth	105.86	114.94		
UK Income	102.78	111.38	+0.84	5.414
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD 0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	76.48	80.97	-0.33	1.49
Beck Bio-Tech	26.25	27.87	-0.25	...
Acorn Ethical Tst	143.51	150.68	-5.53	0.74
City Fin Assets	67.63	71.01	-1.78	1.28
City Fin America	86.13	90.43†	+0.64	.
City Fin Intl	71.21	76.47	+1.58	0.97
City Fin Japan	152.34	159.95	-3.92	.
Fears Hse Cap	262.85	284.78	+4.50	1.73
Fears Hse Inc	186.58	202.93	+2.24	4.15
Beckley Wld Grh	115.18	122.09†	-1.00	
Falconet Cap Gth	127.43	135.56	-0.21	
Fairmount Intl	139.56	146.95	-0.39	...
City Fin Ptfls Inc	52.14	55.60	-0.27	4.41
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	50.59	53.68	+1.02	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD 0800 373 393				
American Gwth	57.52	61.52	+0.27	.
Atlas Mngd Gwth	34.69	37.10	-0.85	0.54
Dragon Growth	61.02	65.26	+0.50	0.70
Equity High Inc	79.48	84.53†	+1.10	4.29
(Accum Units)	107.66	114.53	+1.48	4.29
European Gwth	48.25	51.33	-1.09	1.21
Evergreen	25.71	27.50	-0.39	
General Equity	80.97	85.93	+0.79	2.96
Japan Growth	48.26	51.61	+3.13	
Pegasus Gwth	48.50	52.02	+0.52	2.96
Pref Sm Cos Inc	28.44	30.26	+0.14	1.69
(Accum Units)	29.55	31.44	+0.15	1.69
Retirement Inc #	24.98	26.49	+0.45	6.09
Special Sits	35.99	38.29	+0.25	2.24
UK & Overseas	45.56	48.47	+0.83	1.54
COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD 01634 898 000				
Capital	65.76	69.71†	+0.38	2.28
Income	59.30	62.86†	+0.13	4.20
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD 0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	149.66	159.21†	-2.00	5.50
Fixed & Convertible	37.89	40.31†	-0.53	7.46
Monthly Inc Plus	46.03	48.97†	-0.31	9.15
Preference Share	44.26	47.08†	-0.67	8.02
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	117.38	124.87†	+1.80	6.51
Managed Fund	64.74	68.87†	-0.21	3.29
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	35.86	38.15†	-0.06	2.10
(Accum Units)	41.73	44.39†	-0.08	2.10
UK & General	77.08	82.00†	-1.49	3.18
(Accum Units)	97.75	103.99†	-3.22	3.18
UK Growth	137.59	146.80†	-2.46	2.87
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	178.67	190.07†	-6.36	0.23
Far Eastern Gth	120.67	128.37†	+5.97	
Global Bond	75.19	79.92†	-1.98	6.25
Japan Growth	111.12	118.21†	+7.44	
North Amer Gth	165.78	176.36†	+0.64	...
Oriental Growth	69.62	74.06†	+0.67	0.11
Worldwide Growth	62.21	66.18†	-1.65	0.08
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NOT PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	91.44	91.44†	-1.88	6.05
Homeowners Fund	75.31	80.12	-0.89	1.89
Gilt/Int Fund	123.47	131.35	-1.79	2.46
CONFEDERATION FUNDS MGMT LTD 01438 744 840				
Growth Inc	56.25	59.84	+0.76	3.30
(Accum Units)	60.52	64.80	+0.83	3.30
High Income	32.81	34.90	+0.30	4.90
Japan	34.22	36.40	-2.18	
Smaller Cos Inc	28.87	30.71	+0.30	2.80
Smaller Cos	30.57	32.52	+0.31	2.80
North American	31.91	33.94	+0.22	0.60
European	35.42	37.68	+0.90	0.70
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD 0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	29.38	31.51†	+0.03	3.52
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD 0800 526 358				
Growth	134.20	142.80	+0.90	1.89
Income	66.14	70.37	+2.00	5.08
European	57.36	61.03	+0.33	1.03
Recovery	148.80	158.30†	+0.70	2.16
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD 0171 283 9494				
Equity Dcl	774.00	787.20		3.78
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD 01277 698 370				
Fellowship Tst	71.11	75.64	+0.94	1.31
Income #	231.80	246.50	+3.20	4.76
(Accum Units) #	570.60	607.00	+7.80	4.76
Smaller Cos	152.00	161.70	+2.80	0.60
(Accum Units)	185.80	197.60	+2.40	0.60
Inv Portfolio	75.77	79.86	+0.35	1.49
High Inc Port #	66.61	70.86	+0.78	4.94
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD 0171 410 0177				
Euro Small Cos	£14.84	£15.20	-11.30	
Japan Small Cos	£11.59	£11.82	-46.40	
UK Small Cos	£16.69	£17.42	-15.90	
US Small Cos	£15.64	£16.14	-2.50	
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS 0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	193.30	203.50		3.19
DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0131 315 2500				
European Gwth	260.80	275.90	+5.70	1.07
New Asia	193.30	205.50	+0.80	0.16
Japan Growth	112.90	119.20	+7.40	
Jap Smlr Cos	436.40	463.00	-19.10	
Nth Amer	264.10	280.10	-2.30	0.86
Sthld Asia Pac Mt	108.70	115.10	-0.36	0.39
UK Inc & Gth	206.30	220.10	+2.30	3.02
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD 01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	135.70	144.40	+1.30	1.85
UK High Inc Inc	145.70	155.00	+2.10	4.85
(Accum Units)	186.50	198.40	-2.60	4.85
UK Fxd & F I Inc	58.65	60.12	+0.08	5.21
Emerged Opps	82.02	87.26	+0.89	1.07
UK Smlr Cos #	48.09	51.16	+0.77	..
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0345 090 526				
American	120.40	127.80	+1.20	1.37
Convertibles #	19.75	20.98†	+0.15	6.67
Equity Income #	120.60	128.18†	-1.70	4.14
EuroFund	42.85	45.48	+0.82	0.44
Financial	41.98	44.60	-0.64	1.68
Growth & Inc #	225.80	239.90	+3.10	3.21
High Dist #	149.40	158.70	+2.30	4.73
International	362.40	385.10	+8.80	0.13
Intl Cap Inc	87.63	93.55	+0.97	2.94
Latin American	24.59	26.13	+0.76	..
Pacific	72.33	76.85	+0.80	..
Preference Share	21.03	22.34	+0.09	7.39
Tokyo	207.90	220.90	+14.70	
UK Smaller Cos	213.80	227.20	+1.20	1.21
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD 0171 242 0242				
Econ Trust	200.36	213.75	+6.51	1.92
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD 0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	189.80	201.90	+0.50	1.16
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 01296 431 480				
European	75.47	79.44	-0.91	1.98
Ethical Tst	40.20	42.32	-0.05	1.42
Far Eastern	277.30	292.52	+5.71	2.15
High Income	126.09	132.73	-0.51	5.06
Intl Growth	110.64	116.67†	+1.01	1.32
North American	107.43	113.15	-0.40	1.32
Pelican	111.80	117.68	+0.63	3.48
Smaller Cos	62.32	65.60	+0.18	3.02
Special Sits	82.09	86.41	+0.35	2.97
Tst of Inv Tsts	170.15	179.10	-0.78	1.83
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD 0171 407 5966				
Smaller Cos Inc	183.94	197.55	+2.47	1.48
Smaller Cos Acc	332.35	346.28	-4.33	1.48
Recovery	47.66	43.85	+0.57	1.42
Recovery Acc	48.76	50.38	-0.57	1.42
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD 01392 412 144				
Balanced	108.33	115.24	-0.35	0.63
Capital Growth	76.78	82.34	-0.48	
Fd of Inv Tsts	41.54	44.31	-0.29	0.65
High Income #	33.83	42.74	-3.93	10.76
Managed	47.14	51.24†	-0.32	
Zero Preference	38.88	31.13	-0.03	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD 01273 220 707				
Family Asset Tst	74.70	79.46	-0.51	2.95
Family Income Tst	42.85	42.85	-0.07	6.86
Family Trust	80.41	85.54	-0.54	1.53
United Charities	249.50	265.40	-2.10	4.22
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		5.90
Bond Funds:				
Gilt & Fxd Inc	26.65	28.74†	+0.06	7.63
Intl Bond	25.47	27.54	+0.08	5.12
Income Funds:				
High Income	23.06	24.57	+0.20	5.16
Income Plus	104.56	111.20†	-1.50	4.12
Amer Eq Inc	45.39	48.57	-0.21	1.92
European Income	39.57	42.08	+0.85	1.63
Far East Inc	61.88	65.80	-1.16	2.37
Global Convertible	21.62	23.07†	+0.09	3.54
UK Dev Grth	22.34	24.22	-0.34	1.87
Equity Funds:				
ASEAN	55.81	59.54	+0.56	
American	238.30	253.50	+1.40	
Amer Spec Sits	112.32	119.80	-1.80	
Japan Smaller Cos	35.22	37.57	-1.66	
European	156.70	166.70	+2.30	
European Opps	58.85	62.58	+0.63	
Global Pfor	23.09	24.56	+0.47	0.07
UK Growth	86.28	91.74	+0.46	
Growth & Inc	135.20	143.80	+2.10	2.20
Intl PEP	35.13	37.36	-0.52	
Japan Spec Sits	85.56	91.56	+4.63	.
Japan	181.40	195.00	-11.30	
Managed Intl	260.50	277.50†	+4.40	
MoneyBuilder	48.83	52.99	-0.45	
Recovery	45.69	48.59†	-0.27	
South E Asia	139.50	149.30	+0.10	
Special Sits	481.40	512.30	+4.19	
Specialist Funds:				
Cash Accum Units	108.75	108.75	+0.09	5.90
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD 0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	128.80	131.20†	+0.90	1.96
Inc Pfolio #	81.45	82.06†	-0.53	3.44
Cap Pfolio	135.00	137.40	+1.50	1.30
General Opps	118.79	118.60	+0.10	3.62
Growth Inc	29.48	29.18	-0.34	1.73
Private Portfolio	383.30	391.30†	-2.43	1.34
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT Enq 0171 454 1434 Dlg 01277 261 010				
European	105.29	112.20	-1.90	0.27
Emerg Asian	152.60	163.20	-0.70	
High Income	20.98	22.25	+0.18	10.13
Other Income	66.60	72.50	-1.11	3.59
UK Growth	104.10	111.50	-1.60	1.53
UK Income	103.32	110.76	-1.50	3.83
US Smaller Cos	291.70	312.00	-1.50	9.15

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD 0171 407 5966				
High Inc Eqty	45.92	48.29	+0.16	3.37
-do- Inv Tst Inc	70.15	73.76†	+0.36	3.76
Intl Growth	63.48	66.75	+0.33	
Investment Trust	83.71	88.02†	+0.35	...
UK Smaller Cos	78.76	82.84	+1.10	0.99
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD 0171 374 4100				
American Growth	55.13	58.93†	+0.41	.
(Accum Units)	55.13	58.93†	+0.41	
Amer Smlr Cos	465.50	497.90	+1.80	.
(Accum Units)	475.50	508.60	+1.80	.
Capital Tst	288.50	306.80†	+5.40	1.61
(Accum Units)	414.80	441.10†	+7.60	1.61
Cont'l Smlr Cos	56.45	60.35	-0.23	0.51
(Accum Units)	59.38	63.47	-0.23	0.51
Convertible	119.26	126.80	+0.50	5.67
(Accum Units)	240.50	256.20	+1.10	5.67
Emerging Markets	61.16	65.33	+0.55	...
(Accum Units)	61.21	65.39	+0.92	...
European	111.90	118.70	+3.00	0.14
(Accum Units)	117.20	124.40	+3.30	0.14
Extra Income	317.90	338.10	+3.90	3.97
(Accum Units)	477.50	507.80	+5.80	3.97
Financial	116.40	125.20	+1.10	0.30
(Accum Units)	122.60	131.80	+1.20	0.30
Gilt Trust	61.71	63.64	-0.07	6.37
(Accum Units)	86.19	88.87	-0.12	6.37
Health Fund Inc	132.10	142.10	+1.50	...
(Accum Units)	133.10	142.10	+1.50	...
Income & Growth	183.80	195.30	+2.90	3.32
(Accum Units)	277.30	295.80	+4.40	3.32
Intl Growth	345.40	370.10	+11.50	..
(Accum Units)	383.60	411.00	+12.70	.
Japan & Gen	159.00	169.80†	+7.50	
(Accum Units)	160.60	171.60†	+7.80	
Monthly Inc	153.50	163.20	+1.50	4.10
Managed Port Inc	98.90	104.10	+1.30	1.47
(Accum Units)	104.80	110.30	+1.40	1.47
Quarterly Income	50.83	53.85†	+0.37	4.71
(Accum Units)	54.35	57.61†	+0.33	4.71
Recovery	317.50	339.50	+4.50	0.13
(Accum Units)	373.80	399.70	+5.40	0.13
UK Growth	52.23	55.82	+0.50	2.79
(Accum Units)	54.03	57.75	+0.45	2.79
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS Dealing 01705 881520 Enq 01705 881340				
FP Am Smlr Cos	112.10	119.80	+4.00	0.0
FP Asian Growth	236.70	252.60	+4.40	0.0
FP Australian	288.00	309.00	-1.70	0.0
FP Equity Dist	378.60	394.20	+4.40	2.80
-do- Accum	782.70	832.60	+9.30	2.80
FP Euro Gth Dist	138.10	147.90†	+3.20	0.70
-do- Accum	145.00	154.20†	+3.40	0.70
FP Fixed Int Dist	127.60	134.80†	-0.38	7.50
-do- Accum	237.10	250.50†	-0.40	7.50
FP Intl Bond	55.28	58.46†	+0.11	5.06
FP Intl Gth Dist	87.60	93.20	+1.30	0.86
-do- Accum	91.80	97.60	+2.01	0.80
FP Nth Amer Dist	183.80	193.80	+0.60	1.10
-do- Accum	201.60	213.50	+0.60	1.10
FP Pac Basin Acc	189.60	202.60	+6.10	.
FP Income	52.87	56.39	+1.34	5.18
(Accum Units)	171.10	182.50	+4.40	5.18
FP Jap Smlr Cos	312.90	333.70	+21.10	0.0
FP Monthly Dist	69.15	73.79†	+1.01	6.01
FP Stlg Deposit	100.90	100.90		6.25
FP Tokyo	82.10	87.57	+5.77	0.0
FP UK Focus	35.37	38.03	-0.56	1.91
FP UK Growth	166.60	177.90	+3.80	2.80
(Accum Units)	323.00	344.50	+7.40	2.80
Stewardship Dist	318.00	338.20	+4.30	2.10
-do- Accum	388.80	413.60	+5.20	2.10
Stewardship Inc Dist	67.70	72.00†	+0.92	3.90
-do- Accum	87.80	93.30†	+1.11	3.90
N Am Stshp Dist	92.90	98.80	-0.05	0.90
-do- Accum	98.70	105.00		0.90
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	103.30	109.80	+0.80	1.02
Open Cap Gth Acc	103.30	109.70	+0.40	0.27
Cap Gth Inc Inc	99.93	106.30†	+0.30	2.43
Cap Gth Inc Acc	102.30	108.80	+0.30	2.43
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic	101.70	108.10†		3.08
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac	104.20	110.80	+0.10	3.08
NM Unit Trusts				
American	44.89	47.75	+0.32	1.10
European	195.10	207.00	+4.90	0.78
(Accum Units)	211.10	223.90	+5.30	0.78
Intl	30.58	32.63	+0.84	0.96
(Accum Units)	44.35	47.33	+1.23	0.96
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0345 581 106/7				
GANDA	229.10	243.30	+2.70	2.55
Cash	49.59	50.33	+0.04	5.29
Growth Portfolio	73.13	77.51	+1.87	1.06
Income Portfolio	61.08	64.59	+1.09	4.77
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD 0171 236 6441				
Special Sits	173.10	185.10	+0.50	1.55
Dividend	84.57	90.45	-0.49	4.22
Intl Gilt & Inc	211.90	226.60	-2.00	3.10
UK & Gen	42.20	45.13†	-0.41	2.11
Fund of Funds	59.57	63.71†	+0.27	.
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD 0171 710 4567 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
Amer Spec Sits	175.80	188.10	-0.20	...
European	508.10	543.50†	+2.30	0.37
Far East & Gen	226.40	242.20	+3.90	.
Germany	109.80	116.40	+1.30	.
Income Inc	146.20	156.40†	+2.70	4.69
(Accum Units)	157.90	168.90	+2.90	4.69
International	295.80	316.40†	+9.50	.
Intl Income	77.63	82.29	-0.69	4.12
Japan & General	371.40	394.90	+13.30	
Korean Securities	62.38	66.72	-2.64	.
Smlr Cos Div Inc	41.28	44.15	+0.01	5.44
UK Capital Inc	155.20	166.00	+0.40	1.40
UK Capital Acc	271.30	290.20	+0.60	1.40
UK Spec Sits	76.42	81.74	+0.48	0.75
US & General	134.30	143.00	+0.80	...
Wrldx Spec Sits	135.30	144.70	+5.60	...
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS 0171 782 2000 Dlgs only 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	45.46	48.60†	+0.43	2.57
Cash Trust	137.18	137.18	+0.12	5.77
Practical Inv Inc #	108.16	116.75†	+0.68	3.29
(Accum Units) #	249.55	266.98†	+1.54	3.39
UK Index	143.82	144.46	+1.71	2.47
UK Smaller Cos	116.09	124.15	+1.21	1.09
Income Funds				
Preference Share	24.06	25.73	+0.82	9.09
High Income	31.64	33.84†	+0.32	5.38
UK Equity Income	126.16	134.93	+0.48	3.69
Global Bond	27.80	28.81†	-0.93	5.36
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	42.65	45.62	+2.57	
Global Inc & Gth	124.98	133.01	+2.10	2.32
Gold & Intl Res	98.21	105.04	-0.84	
Global Utilities	119.47	128.09	+1.27	1.43
Overseas Funds				
American	140.34	149.62	+1.30	1.24
European	96.10	102.02†	+2.21	1.42
Euro Sml Opps	138.81	147.67	+2.78	...
Amer Emerging	97.08	103.83	+0.49	..
Hong Kong	127.87	136.29†	+1.12	1.80
Japan	224.34	238.46	+13.06	
Pacific Growth	198.92	212.75	+0.89	1.44
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Managed Equity	265.51	285.51	+2.81	2.28
Long Term Bal	224.69	224.68	+2.31	3.33
Med Term Bal	192.21	192.21	+0.77	3.81
UK Equity	236.06	236.06	+3.14	2.70
UK Emerging Cos	133.20	133.20	+1.51	2.33
American	231.98	231.98†	+2.14	1.83
Japan	110.65	118.69†	+7.69	
European	250.43	268.43†	+6.22	1.47
Index Linked Gilt	166.78	166.78	-0.25	3.08
Fixed Interest	154.73	154.73	-0.72	6.79
Amer Emerging	258.01	258.01†	+2.13	8.16
Pacific	215.88	215.88	+2.73	0.97
Emerging Mkts	113.08	113.08†	+3.91	0.92
Index Stck Japan	146.05	146.05	+9.80	0.35
-do- Pacific Rim	168.93	168.93	+1.70	1.45
-do- Cont Europe	144.68	144.68	+3.16	2.05
Index Stck USA	132.52	132.52	+0.28	1.33
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	96.91	103.10	+1.41	
Med Term Bal	91.38	97.21	+0.38	
Long Term Bal	100.95	107.41	+1.11	
UK Equity	109.17	116.14	+1.55	
UK Emerging Cos	62.45	66.43	+0.75	
American	107.56	114.43	+1.06	
Japan	53.16	56.55	+3.58	
European	104.35	111.01	+2.78	
Fixed Interest	78.27	83.27	-0.39	
Index Linked Gilt	74.06	78.79	-0.12	
Deposit	82.72	85.07	+0.15	
Pooled Unit Trusts				
Berkeley Intl Grn	108.90	115.90	+1.00	
Berkeley Income #	107.40	114.30	+0.20	3.95
RMM Intl	129.95	135.74†	-0.45	0.63
Ercll Gth Port Inc	58.60	61.95†	+0.27	0.80
-do- Inc Port Inc	54.81	57.85	-0.14	3.40
-do- Wwde Port	50.26	53.64	+0.36	0.10
Shaw Utilities	50.63	53.44	+0.04	3.24
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Intl Inc	521.46	554.74	-1.59	1.86
(Accum Units)	579.97	616.59	-1.75	1.36
European Inc	136.02	144.73	-1.92	1.15
Arbitrage Inc	136.48	144.28	-0.82	
N America Inc	319.73	339.50	-1.63	
Far East Inc	306.74	326.37	+5.86	
(Accum Units)	317.69	337.97	+6.08	
UK Gwth Inc	169.27	180.07	+3.57	1.70
GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MGMT LTD 0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
UK Equity Inc	84.81	90.78	+1.55	4.93
UK Small Cos	47.03	50.29	+1.83	1.02
British Growth	54.27	58.04	+1.19	2.61
American Gwth	168.39	180.09	+2.15	
Japan Gwth	68.37	73.10	-4.34	
Greater China	174.22	186.33	-2.33	
Pacific Strategy	146.18	156.34	-4.63	
European Gwth	82.78	88.59	+2.94	0.29
Intl Growth	140.50	150.26	+2.83	
US Index (f)	13.35	14.26	-0.27	4.96
FT-SE Mid 250 Ind	71.38	77.20	+0.80	2.48
Monthly Income	36.10	38.75†	+0.29	8.00
NIG Unit Trust Dealing 071 365 0033				
Gold UK Index (f)	1051	1110	-0.25	4.40
GRANVILLE UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0171 488 1212				
Small Cos	84.73	90.19	+3.00	1.70
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD 0171 538 9668				
Cash	137.50	138.50	+0.10	4.76
European	456.03	487.15	+9.10	0.52
Gilt & Fixed	123.60	131.10†	-0.40	5.56
Growth Equity	316.50	338.10	-1.60	1.98
Income Trust	125.98	134.30	-1.50	3.05
International	171.10	182.70†	+3.60	0.33
Japan Trust	121.70	130.00	+7.40	
Nth American	257.70	275.30	+3.40	0.31
Pacific	504.30	528.70	-5.90	
Guardian	477.70	513.30†	+4.50	1.92
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD 0171 522 2129				
EMU Trust	95.16	99.09	-0.01	7.42
Global High Inc	94.50	98.28	-0.03	6.99
Prem Fixed Int	101.31	105.17	+0.30	8.03
Eqty & Bond Inc	99.79	106.10	+0.75	5.39
European Growth	95.35	101.38	+0.35	
Intl PEP Trust	57.47	61.11	+0.84	
High Income	117.54	125.41	+3.06	4.17
-do- Accum	162.25	172.51	+4.20	4.17
Recovery	349.30	371.40	+2.70	1.92
(Accum Units)	401.00	426.40	+3.20	1.92
St Vinc High Inc	113.17	120.69†	+1.34	7.32
UK Emerging Cos	232.40	247.10	-0.60	2.66
UK Smlr Cos	312.60	332.70	-15.00	2.58
Gld Prv Tst	87.00	92.50	+1.23	1.02
(Accum Units)	87.81	93.36	+1.24	1.02
Inc Share Tst	84.05	89.36†	+0.29	8.56
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD Dealing: 0171 220 5050				
Growth	25.16	26.68	-0.32	1.76
Growth Acc	25.16	26.68	-0.32	1.76
Income	25.20	26.72	-0.32	4.08
Income Acc	25.20	26.77	-0.32	4.06
HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 390				
Model Pfolio	136.80	207.70†	-2.50	2.49
Smaller Cos	30.61	32.58†	+0.07	0.83
HENDERSON TOUCHE REMNANT Enquiries: 01277 263 290 Dealing: 01277 234 772				
UK Funds				
Special Sits	286.52	308.57†	+3.84	1.46
Recovery Gth	62.56	66.49	+0.87	2.79
UK Smaller Cos	117.43	126.27	+2.31	1.92
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth	257.68	276.04	-2.56	3.81
(Accum Units)	713.50	766.23	+6.88	3.81

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
High Income #	300.34	321.05	+3.10	4.48
Extra Income #	206.94	232.92†	+3.16	6.67
Pref & Gilt	45.97	49.41	+0.17	8.96
International				
International	244.83	261.00†	+4.59	0.88
Global Bond	51.60	54.89†	+0.23	6.28
Ind Ppd Tst	76.77	82.10	+0.37	0.18
Global Tech	158.57	167.00	+1.44	...
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	161.30	172.49	+0.74	0.45
European	447.04	474.01	+8.58	0.77
European Income	78.21	82.81	+1.72	2.97
Euro Smlr Cos	143.52	153.98	+0.60	0.02
Far Sp Sits	64.94	69.50†	-0.79	0.53
(Accum Units)	69.57	74.44	-0.84	0.53
Japan Trust	194.83	207.53	+14.14	
Japan Special Sits	206.01	219.15†	+11.13	..
Pacific Smlr Cos	219.98	235.35†	+4.54	
North American	231.86	246.69	+1.82	0.27
American Smaller	103.46	110.61	+0.14	...
Henderson TR Pension Portfolio				
American Growth	...			
Eur Sp Sits	55.97	58.52	-0.23	..
General Growth	42.59	45.14	-0.22	..
Income Growth	41.19	43.66	+0.25	.
Japan Growth	...	...		
Smaller Cos				...
Special Opps	...			
World Sp Sits	44.66	47.32	+0.28	.
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS 0181 686 4355				
British	98.58	101.10	+2.16	2.12
Capital	166.90	174.70	+4.20	1.63
Dollar	343.30	359.40	+0.30	0.15
Enterprise Gth	316.40	331.30†	+9.40	1.97
European	215.10	225.20	+6.00	0.70
Far East	294.10	307.90	+9.50	0.47
Financial	786.90	826.00†	+28.10	1.77
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	25.22	28.22	-0.19	7.51
High Yield	100.59	105.61	+2.10	4.12
Income & Growth	140.40	147.00	+3.40	3.44
International	244.80	255.40	+7.30	0.05
Japanese General	197.30	206.50	+15.20	...
Japan Tech	79.49	83.23	+5.39	.
Nat Resources	67.12	70.28	-1.83	.
Portfolio	70.60	73.92	+2.20	1.40
Smaller Cos	122.80	128.50	+3.50	1.53
Special Sits	147.30	154.20†	-4.50	1.49
UK Emerging Cos	85.95	89.99	-1.73	0.94
US Smaller Cos	85.96	89.99	+0.37	.
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD Advisers: 0800 181 890 Inv. 0800 289 505				
UK Funds				
Balanced #	97.08	103.60†	+1.30	6.16
Capital	575.50	614.20	+9.60	2.46
Income #	542.70	579.20	+8.39	5.26
Footsie Fund	52.96	53.23	-0.65	2.84
Tsdr Index	102.58	109.40†	-0.18	2.15
UK Index	134.30	143.30	+1.70	3.22
International Funds				
American Growth	475.80	508.60	+3.60	0.60
American Index	199.50	212.50†	-0.40	1.20
European Growth	105.10	111.90	+2.80	0.34
Eurotrack 100	151.60	161.30†	+3.90	0.88
Global Bond	20.22	21.33	-0.01	6.02
Japan Growth	267.10	284.50	-19.30	
Japan Index	77.82	83.05†	+5.11	0.04
Japan Smlr Cos	30.98	33.06	+1.88	..
Far Eastern Funds				
Asian	51.47	54.93	-0.73	0.23
Hong Kong Gwth	90.91	97.02†	-0.33	1.46
Spore & Mlysn Gth	69.15	73.80	-2.04	.
Tiger Index	182.70	195.00	-0.40	1.49
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD 0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	28.96	30.12†	+0.42	1.08
General Funds				
Managed	69.15	71.88	+0.88	1.92
Rupert Child Fnd	83.36	86.67	+7.16	2.49
UK Growth	58.43	60.74	+0.39	2.45
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc	80.44	83.62	+0.78	6.85
Gilt & Fixed Int	25.55	26.34†	-0.01	8.02
UK Inc & Gwth	39.58	41.14	+0.82	4.27
UK Income	331.49	344.59	+4.39	3.44
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	48.29	49.99†	+0.18	0.45
Amer Smlr Cos	112.70	117.20	+0.79	..
(Accum Units)	113.80	118.30	+0.50	..
Europe Gth	145.30	150.70	+2.80	
(Accum Units)	150.20	155.80	+2.90	...
Euro Smaller Cos	27.02	28.09	+0.31	
French Growth	77.45	80.51†	+3.71	0.26
Accum Units	83.69	86.27†	+3.59	0.26
H Kong & China	71.54	74.32	+0.47	1.99
Intl Growth	54.94	57.11	+1.50	0.66
(Accum Units)	55.40	57.59	+1.51	0.66
Japan Gth	31.02	32.25	+2.81	...
Accum Units	31.02	32.25	+2.01	...
Japan Smaller Cos	37.08	38.54	+2.43	...
Glob Emg Mkts	85.77	89.16	+2.80	...
Accum Units	86.36	89.79	+2.82	...
SE Asia	295.80	307.20†	+2.80	0.35
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond	53.66	55.31†	-0.19	6.40
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD 0171 581 3020				
American Cap	130.00	138.20	+0.30	
Income	144.89	154.13	-1.72	3.96
UK Growth	54.09	57.54	+1.33	0.61
International	71.17	75.79	-1.61	0.08
Ecology	77.43	82.37	+1.11	1.31
European	120.81	127.32	+1.72	..
Far Eastern	272.60	289.90	+12.90	
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Extra Income	48.73	51.84†	+1.07	7.43
Gilt Yield	112.38	118.40†	-0.40	6.76
Global Income	200.30	213.10	+2.40	4.24
High Yield	134.10	142.70	+2.30	6.19
(Accum Units)	405.90	431.80	+7.80	6.19
Smlr Cos Div	50.37	53.58	+2.36	3.13
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smlr Cos	87.94	93.55	+1.25	..
North American	75.02	79.81	+0.44	3.16
European Special	127.56	135.60	+1.50	2.14
European	148.40	155.70	+3.80	0.39
(Accum Units)	152.20	162.00	-4.30	1.39
General	265.20	282.10	+1.20	3.21
Global Eqty Inc	97.75	104.29	+1.50	1.15
Japan	38.40	41.21	+24.13	
Japanese Special	210.50	223.90	+12.20	
Master Accum	153.80	163.50	+5.98	0.57
Pacific	303.60	323.20	-7.20	
(Accum Units)	336.30	357.00	+8.50	
Smaller Cos	105.30	112.70	+4.30	0.61
UK Equity Growth	38.15	40.52	-1.36	1.60
KNIGHT WILLIAMS PRTFOL MGRS 0171 629 1683				
Global Inc & Gth	53.42	56.21	-1.59	.
Inv Trust	62.05	66.01	-0.34	
Cautious Inc/Gth	56.94	60.51	-0.62	1.53
High Inc Acc	53.83	57.26	+0.33	4.80
L & C UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0171 588 2800				
Income	550.62	591.70	-2.42	6.32
Intl & General	380.60	398.60	-1.30	0.51
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT 0171 407 5966				
Bridge Income	53.21	55.37	-1.80	5.57
Inc & Growth Inc	53.06	56.45	-1.61	4.50
Smaller Cos	53.29	56.71	-2.13	1.44
LAURENTIAN UNIT TST MGMT LTD Enq: 01452 371 500 Dlg: 01452 371 523				
Growth Trust	127.30	135.50	+2.90	1.36
High Income				4.57
International	99.74	105.23	+2.48	3.53
Recovery Trust	62.55	66.55	+2.15	1.45
European Trust	112.82	120.02	-3.76	0.59
Japanese Trust			-3.30	
American Trust	34.15	36.53	+1.05	3.48
Managed	64.13	68.27	+1.21	2.36
Cash	50.05	50.05	+0.03	4.52
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 374 0916				
UK Cap	337.56	355.13	+2.52	2.73
UK Inc/Gth	313.56	330.73	+1.73	3.45
UK Income	266.13	285.17	+1.82	4.26
UK Sm Cos	223.33	236.34	+2.52	2.11
Euro Gwth	120.50	126.73	-0.60	
N Amer Gwth	82.49	86.79	-1.45	0.24
Japan Growth	62.27	65.27	-3.53	
Money Mkt	100.22	100.22		5.00
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 395				
Equity Dist	426.10	452.40	-5.70	2.91
(Accum Units)	712.70	757.00	+1.30	2.91
Equity Income	94.54	100.30	-2.54	4.07

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Cont Euro Gth	67.94	66.26	+2.88	1.55
-do- Acc	67.26	70.81	+2.22	1.55
Extra Inc	250.90	267.00	+3.30	4.22
-do- Acc	651.60	693.20	+8.60	4.22
FTSE 100 Inc	97.25	104.10	+1.10	2.66
FTSE 100 Acc	97.85	104.10	+1.10	2.66
German Gth	122.40	128.90	-1.00	8.10
-do- Acc	128.30	135.18	-0.80	0.10
Growth Port	538.60	564.50†	+15.40	0.40
-do- Acc	538.40	573.90	+15.70	0.40
Hi Income Inc #	99.07	105.40	+0.70	6.27
Hi Income Acc #	99.07	105.40	+0.70	6.27
Income	479.10	509.70	+12.80	3.83
-do- Acc	£12.85	£13.68	+33.80	3.83
Income Port	533.50	534.90	+3.78	3.96
-do- Acc	533.50	567.60	+4.00	3.96
Japan Growth	99.26	105.80	+7.87	
-do- Acc	99.70	108.10	+7.02	
Master Trust	35.62	38.39	+0.29	1.50
-do- Acc	62.71	68.29	+0.27	1.50
N American Gen	175.30	186.50	+1.30	1.87
-do- Acc	202.50	215.50	+1.80	1.07
N/Am Sm Co Rec	136.50	145.30	+0.70	
-do- Acc	138.40	148.30	+0.70	
Pacific Basin	226.80	241.30	+3.30	0.87
-do- Acc	241.00	256.40	+4.10	0.87
Small Cos Rec	354.60	373.30	+13.70	2.15
-do- Acc	474.30	499.30	+18.40	2.15
UK Growth	83.72	89.07	+2.32	2.68
-do- Acc	101.76	108.25	+2.78	2.66
Worldwide Gth	298.80	317.90	+11.60	0.70
-do- Acc	440.00	469.00	+17.70	0.70
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT 01392 282 673				
American	64.36	69.05	+0.46	0.10
General	83.86	88.97	+1.02	2.50
Income	61.81	66.32†	+0.78	5.60
International	80.34	84.73	+1.39	0.50
Japan	54.80	58.79	+3.04	
Tst of Inv Tsts	63.43	68.05	+0.55	1.40
M & G SECURITIES Cust Servs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
Amer & General	383.60	405.70	+6.00	0.68
(Accum Units)	478.00	505.50	+7.50	0.68
Amer Recovery	442.70	468.20	+8.50	0.51
(Accum Units)	508.00	537.30	+10.20	0.51
Amer Smlr Cos	128.90	136.30	+0.40	
(Accum Units)	131.70	139.30	+0.50	
Australasian	139.60	147.60†	-0.60	2.34
(Accum Units)	170.80	180.50	-0.80	2.34
Capital	801.10	847.20	+8.40	2.82
(Accum Units)	918.20	972.10	+9.70	2.82
Charifund	674.10	690.90	+9.60	5.82
(Accum Units)	£21.46	£21.78	+45.80	5.82
Commodity	367.80	389.00	+9.30	0.49
(Accum Units)	540.00	571.20	+13.80	0.49
Compound Grth	917.80	970.40	+5.90	3.22
(Accum Units)	964.80	£10.17	+6.20	3.22
Dividend	39.60	41.90	+0.80	4.40
(Accum Units)	166.20	175.70	+2.90	4.40
Equity Income	328.00	347.90†	+5.36	5.03
(Accum Units)	427.40	452.00	+7.00	5.03
Euro & General	474.40	501.70	+6.80	1.33
(Accum Units)	588.00	634.60	+8.50	1.33
Euro Dividend	68.00	71.90	+1.50	3.69
(Accum Units)	81.90	86.50	+1.80	3.69
Extra Yield	400.20	423.20†	+4.10	5.01
(Accum Units)	£12.64	£13.37	+12.90	5.01
Far Eastern	323.30	341.90†	+5.60	0.54
(Accum Units)	429.10	453.80	+7.40	0.54
Fund of Inv Tsts	595.40	629.60	+6.90	2.21
(Accum Units)	£11.72	£11.76	+12.90	2.21
General	58.70	62.10	+0.80	4.00
(Accum Units)	164.80	174.60	+2.20	4.00
Gilt Income	58.56	58.67	-0.09	8.06
(Accum Units)	163.06	163.36	-0.27	8.06
Gold	59.10	62.50	+0.80	1.13
(Accum Units)	69.90	73.80	+1.00	1.13
High Income	27.70	29.30	+0.30	4.95
(Accum Units)	111.30	117.70	+1.30	4.95
Intl Growth	71.50	75.60	+1.49	1.24
(Accum Units)	124.70	131.90	+2.49	1.24
International Inc	94.80	100.30	+1.30	4.91
(Accum Units)	140.70	148.90	+1.99	4.91
Japan & Gen	42.00	44.40	+2.50	...
(Accum Units)	45.10	47.70	+2.70	...
Japan Smlr Cos	146.58	154.90	+6.80	...
(Accum Units)	147.80	156.00	+6.80	...
Managed Income	26.60	27.90†	+0.39	4.04
Midland	59.20	62.60	+0.80	3.49
(Accum Units)	197.80	209.40	+2.90	3.49
Pension Ex	919.50	942.90	+18.00	4.42
Recovery	40.00	42.30	+0.40	2.75
(Accum Units)	65.70	69.50	+0.70	2.75
Second General	66.70	70.50	+1.20	3.79
(Accum Units)	173.20	183.20	+3.40	3.79
Smaller Cos	64.70	68.40	+0.10	3.34
(Accum Units)	129.00	136.40	+0.20	3.34
Sterling Fd Int	23.75	23.84†	-0.02	8.73
Treasury	25.04	25.00†	+0.03	6.28
Trustee	40.80	42.30	+0.40	4.57
(Accum Units)	161.00	170.00	+1.70	4.57
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD Dealing 01277 287 010 Enq 01903 204 631				
European Growth	77.44	82.38	+1.39	1.68
Intl Bond	63.21	66.43	+0.16	5.77
Intl Equity Growth	68.36	72.65	+1.60	0.89
N Amer Growth	94.04	100.04†	-0.65	1.85
Special Sits Growth	20.53	21.84†	+0.18	2.04
UK Growth	361.90	385.??	+4.60	2.96
(Accum Units)	472.00	502.10	+5.90	2.98
M&W JOINT INVESTORS LTD 01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	£12.63	£12.85	-3.10	3.40
Income #	960.00	973.20	+8.90	4.60



	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	132.60	136.20	-3.40	4.37
MANULIFE MANAGEMENT LTD Dealings: 01438 747 474				
Growth Units	193.80	206.40	+1.90	2.58
Gilt & Fxd Int	165.40	174.20	+0.10	6.77
Intl Growth	198.90	211.60	+4.20	0.37
North American	180.70	192.80	+2.30	0.64
Far East	251.50	268.00	+3.20	1.45
UK Smaller Cos	164.20	175.60	+0.80	1.89
European	76.02	80.91	+1.01	0.23
Japanese Growth	46.09	49.07	+2.61	...
High Income	181.50	194.19	+2.49	4.42
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD 01244 688 066				
M & S Inv Pfolio	147.20	154.90	+1.70	2.36
-do- Accum	169.40	178.30	+2.00	2.36
UK Sel Pfolio	126.90	133.50	+1.40	2.56
-do- Accum	147.40	155.28	+1.70	2.56
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD 01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	65.63	69.82	+0.10	3.91
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	68.95	73.16†	+0.73	4.53
European	78.14	82.95	+1.41	0.40
Income #	72.45	76.91	+1.32	5.33
Nth American	62.10	65.92	+0.25	0.56
Far East	158.40	168.20	+7.20	
Japan	52.30	55.52†	+3.69	..
Emging Mkts	83.94	89.78	+2.84	
Intl Growth	103.70	110.10	+2.90	0.63
UP Growth	88.39	93.83	+1.40	1.13
UK Smlr Co	43.90	46.60	+0.27	1.17
Asian Opps Fd	35.26	37.71	+1.12	0.36
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD 0171 407 5966				
Income	401.67	427.24†	+3.93	4.18
Global Inc	65.94	70.15†	+0.62	2.95
Brit Leaders	341.50	362.30†	+2.82	2.46
Intl Leaders	198.25	210.69†	-3.18	0.78
PWM Mg Bal Grh	59.33	61.64†	-0.25	0.08
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD Dealing: 0171 280 2800				
American	198.32	210.30	+7.07	..
(Accum Units)	211.90	224.70	+1.10	..
American Opps	87.31	93.77	-0.85	.
(Accum Units)	88.81	94.94	-0.86	.
British Blue Chip	75.71	80.47†	-0.60	2.99
(Accum Units)	93.38	99.89†	-0.06	2.99
Cash	100.90	100.90	+0.10	5.97
(Accum Units)	138.50	138.60	+0.10	5.97
Emerging Mkts	97.81	97.65	+2.40	0.15
(Accum Units)	90.89	97.73	+2.40	0.15
European Growth	225.10	249.00	+3.20	0.18
(Accum Units)	233.40	260.40	+3.40	0.18
European Income	80.32	85.43	+1.42	3.36
(Accum Units)	109.00	115.10	+2.00	3.36
General	474.90	505.70†	+0.30	2.45
(Accum Units)	941.90	1003†	+1.00	2.45
Global Bond	123.70	129.90†	-0.40	5.37
(Accum Units)	152.40	160.10†	+0.50	5.37
Gold & General	128.30	132.80	-4.20	8.47
(Accum Units)	184.00	197.90	-4.30	0.47
Govt Securities	89.16	91.83	-0.39	5.96
(Accum Units)	173.60	179.00	-0.50	5.96
Income	144.40	153.50†	+1.20	4.62
(Accum Units)	321.20	342.10†	+1.80	4.62
Inc Portfolio #	92.35	97.91	+0.39	5.36
(Accum Units) #	94.38	100.10†	+0.34	5.36
Intl Opps	432.20	460.20†	+4.80	0.19
(Accum Units)	577.10	614.60	+5.20	0.19
Japan	159.20	168.90	+9.30	
(Accum Units)	163.60	173.40	+9.60	
New Europe	165.80	176.90†	+1.20	1.14
(Accum Units)	171.00	182.40†	+1.40	1.14
Pacific	107.40	114.60	-0.20	0.83
(Accum Units)	114.30	122.60	-0.20	0.83
Recovery	275.40	293.80	-0.40	0.99
(Accum Units)	351.50	374.90	-0.50	0.99
UK Smaller Cos	51.49	54.83†	-0.12	0.94
(Accum Units)	58.19	62.07†	-0.14	0.94
Portfolio	75.94	80.66†	-0.32	2.86
(Accum Units)	90.58	96.23†	-0.38	2.86
Managed Grw	93.22	97.56	-0.61	1.95
Managed Inc	99.77	103.50	+0.40	4.35
METROPOLITAN UT MGRS LTD 01707 662 233				
Emergents Phz	111.32	118.43	-2.19	3.91
Portfolio	64.71	68.71	-1.14	0.57
UK Income Inc	72.55	77.18†	+1.07	4.88
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 126				
Balanced	57.92	61.73	+0.50	3.37
(Accum Units)	61.99	64.91	+0.53	3.37
British Tst	82.07	85.94†	+1.52	2.17
(Accum Units)	98.33	106.80†	+1.74	2.17
Extra High Inc	65.84	69.05	+0.73	6.57
(Accum Units)	127.80	133.60	+1.40	6.57

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
FT-SE 100 Acc	53.64	56.16	+0.70	2.70
FT-SE 100 Dist	52.81	55.30	+0.69	2.70
Gilt & Fxd Int	56.86	59.01†	-0.12	7.08
(Accum Units)	155.00	161.30	-0.30	7.08
High Yield	213.70	223.00	+2.50	5.75
(Accum Units)	535.30	560.50	+6.30	5.75
Income	274.80	287.70	+3.30	3.72
(Accum Units)	606.30	634.80	+7.40	3.72
Money Market UT	49.55	49.55	+0.02	5.44
(Accum Units)	77.93	77.93	+0.04	5.44
Monthly Income	82.23	86.10†	-1.01	5.29
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	100.40	105.80	+1.80	1.84
European Growth	97.46	103.30	-0.70	0.82
Gilt & Fixed	84.52	89.72	-0.17	6.18
Income	82.40	87.66	+1.68	2.92
Japan Growth	50.18	53.19	+2.97	...
Managed	67.60	71.91	+0.63	2.44
Money Market	87.28	92.52	+0.06	4.34
North American	85.77	90.92	-0.13	0.49
Midland TSA/CS Unit Trust				
British	91.20	97.02	+1.65	1.82
European Growth	91.68	97.18	-0.61	0.81
Gilt & Fixed Int	80.56	85.47	-0.18	6.15
Income	80.94	86.11	+1.05	2.98
Japan Growth	53.07	53.07	-2.92	
Managed	64.64	68.77	+0.65	2.42
Money Market	80.70	85.54	+0.06	4.39
North American	78.19	82.88	-0.12	0.59
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	91.06	96.89	+1.64	1.81
European Growth	89.52	94.89	-0.59	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	73.65	78.14	-0.17	6.32
Income	79.84	84.94	+1.03	3.01
Japan Growth	51.24	54.31	+2.99	
Managed	67.39	71.69	+0.68	2.42
Money Market	75.09	79.59	-0.03	4.37
North American	86.40	91.56	-0.22	0.46
MILLENNIUM FUND MGMT LTD 0171 407 5966				
International (US$)	12.15	12.88	+0.19	.
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD Dealers: 0171 826 0826 Enquiries: 0171 826 0123				
American Gwth	332.90	353.70	+1.40	..
European Gth Inc	390.40	421.40	+6.50	0.31
(Accum Units)	397.70	428.00	+1.00	0.31
Intl Gwth	186.20	198.30	+6.10	
UK Equity Inc	180.60	192.50	+1.80	3.12
UK Intl Tdr Inc	154.50	165.30†	+1.70	2.71
(Accum Units)	883.30	938.10†	+2.00	2.77
US Eq Intl Tk Inc	198.50	210.40†	+0.80	1.55
Japan Trader	73.55	77.89	+4.51	
Asian Trader	191.50	207.20	+1.60	0.39
Managed Inc	149.80	159.60	+1.50	1.44
Deposit Inc	99.97	99.97†	+0.08	5.28
Europa	189.80	182.30†	+2.18	0.28
Genesis	148.10	161.40	+0.70	2.25
High Income	21.85	23.18†	+0.14	10.00
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT 0345 090 933				
Acumen	92.16	94.19	+1.30	2.68
Acumen Inc	87.23	89.15	+1.23	2.68
Acumen Reserve	83.32	84.15	+0.33	8.59
-do- Inc	71.54	72.26	+0.29	8.59
American Growth	146.30	156.80†	+1.00	
Cash Income	49.83	49.83†	+0.04	5.62
Equity Income #	92.20	94.99†	+1.81	4.96
European	69.21	70.81	+1.83	0.40
Smaller Cos	74.06	77.70	+0.42	1.45
Olympiad	61.46	62.65	+1.68	0.65
Global Bond	43.34	43.82†	+0.19	6.68
UK Growth	90.95	93.40	+1.29	2.12
Pacific Growth	98.21	102.80	+1.90	0.09
Japan Growth	88.53	91.09	+6.04	..
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Avon Equity	118.17	125.71	+0.95	2.86
NSP UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 0161 237 5322				
UK Growth	70.85	75.37	+1.18	2.26
UK Income	105.60	112.65	+1.52	4.03
Higher Income	205.38	218.49	+2.89	4.99
Smaller Cos	77.15	82.07†	+3.06	2.38
International	92.61	98.52	+1.30	1.90
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS 0171 623 4200				
Americas Dist	99.70	106.06	+2.37	0.68
European Dist	107.60	114.50	+2.30	
Far East Dist	169.30	180.10†	+3.90	
Global Care Dist	69.22	73.45	+1.25	1.07
Oseas Dist	972.10	£10.34†	+25.50	0.15
(Accum Units)	£12.61	£13.42	+32.50	0.15
UK Dist	337.30	358.80	+4.30	2.68
(Accum Units)	661.50	703.70	+8.30	2.68
UK Extra Inc Dist	74.58	79.34†	+0.81	4.16
Wwide Dist	100.70	107.13	+1.72	0.21
Wwide Inc Dist	68.57	72.95	+1.07	2.68
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER UT MGRS Dlg: 01277 690 288 Admin Enq: 01277 690 300				
Europe Inc	60.00	63.32†	+1.13	0.51
Fund of Funds Inc	56.86	59.18	+0.82	0.88
North America Inc	48.95	51.68	+0.26	0.90
UK Equity Gth Inc	56.64	59.78	+0.55	2.08
(Accum Units)	58.78	62.04	+0.56	2.09
UK General Inc	55.92	59.02	+0.75	2.54
UK Gilt/Fx Int Inc	46.14	48.56	+0.05	7.23
UK Income Inc	55.28	58.35	+0.74	3.99
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD Price enquiry Freephone 0500 33 00 00				
Bond	115.62	122.69	+0.32	5.99
Bridge Fund	80.25	85.78†		2.23
Distributor	88.96	94.64†	+0.99	3.44
Foundation	88.45	94.59†	+0.81	3.79
General	173.95	185.66	+1.33	2.25
Global	304.99	324.48†	+4.95	0.49
Growth	119.79	127.44	+1.29	2.80
Higher Income Inc	26.01	27.81†	+0.27	4.49
Income	218.45	232.48	+1.43	3.79
Intrepid	111.53	118.18	+1.99	2.45
Formerly Capital House				
American Gwth Tst	35.87	37.59	+0.07	0.28
Cash Income	50.80	50.80	+0.04	5.75
European Gwth	38.10	40.57	+0.45	0.21
Intl Gwth	28.35	30.32	+0.54	0.45
Japan Gwth	25.91	27.71	+1.70	...
Managed Tst Inc	46.07	49.27	+0.22	2.36
Oriental Opps Inc	130.50	139.50	+0.40	0.25
Property Shares	32.15	34.38	-1.07	0.88
Smaller Cos	36.82	38.82	+0.15	1.42
UK Growth Tst	25.28	27.03	+0.31	2.77
Royal Scottish Assurance				
Cap Hse Global Inc	68.98	73.77†	+0.82	1.86
Cap Hse UK Inc	65.07	69.59	+0.91	2.95
Exempt (E)	28.84	30.70		1.76
German	47.79	50.86	-0.04	...
High Income	70.19	74.97†	+0.94	5.82
Mngd Pfolio Inc	101.70	108.70	...	1.07
Mngd Pfolio Acc	194.40	207.90	...	1.07
Monthly Income	74.51	79.68†	+0.84	4.44
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD 0191 285 2555				
Managed	92.53	98.28	+0.18	2.24
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS 01603 682 234				
Master Trust	117.98	124.19†	+1.84	1.97
UK Equity	133.94	140.99†	+1.26	3.19
UK Equity Income	128.54	135.31	+1.88	3.26
UK Smaller Cos	117.25	117.10	+1.40	1.82
UK Equity Growth	124.92	131.49†	+0.83	2.42
UK Index Inc	135.15	142.26†	+0.05	7.34
UK Index Tkng	138.92	147.28†	+3.63	1.19
International	225.87	237.78	+5.08	0.47
European	188.32	198.28	+3.33	0.79
Pan European	126.12	132.76	+2.33	1.48
Nth American	178.72	178.70	+1.07	0.11
N Amer Smlr Cos	182.91	192.54	+1.41	..
Japanese	89.24	93.94	+5.58	
Pacific	215.94	227.30	+5.56	0.29
South East Asian	235.10	247.47	+2.47	0.46
Intl Bond	132.40	139.37	-0.23	4.47
Gilt & Convertible	101.94	107.30	-0.40	6.58
Property	81.68	86.19	-0.23	5.38
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD 01256 768 888				
European Inc	233.10	250.60	+3.10	0.09
(Accum Units)	246.60	265.30	+3.40	0.09
Japan Inc	106.40	113.80	+5.60	
Nth American Inc	102.90	110.53	+0.39	0.47
Worldwide Inc	146.90	158.00	+2.30	0.94
Hong Kong Inc	128.50	138.00	+0.70	1.08
Swiss Equities Inc	67.35	72.68	+0.89	.
Wwide Bond Inc	59.63	63.06†	+0.12	5.82
Emerg Asia Inc	202.50	219.40	+1.20	..
(Accum Units)	203.20	220.20	+1.10	..
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.37	50.37†	+0.05	6.14
Thailand Inc	152.60	164.20	-2.80	0.98
Gold Yield Inc	67.52	73.87	+1.01	0.69
New Zealand Inc	84.86	91.54	-1.83	1.55
Intl Mngd PEP Inc	58.93	63.26†	+0.61	1.21
Latin Amt Comp Inc	49.70	53.67	+2.46	
Uk All Sh Mkr Inc	56.25	60.41†	+0.75	2.31
Broker Unit Trusts				
Global Trustees	73.29	78.39	+0.69	
Global Portfolio	65.45	70.60	+0.55	
Global Opps	63.12	67.51	+0.78	
March Global Gth	60.24	63.88	+0.54	
AAM Global Equity	51.67	54.98	+0.26	
CAM Brit Gwth Inc	87.12	93.67	+0.71	
Temple Equity Inc	42.42	46.32	-0.93	2.73
Hartley Growth	70.25	74.48	-0.91	0.39
Intl Growth Inc	82.06	87.77	-0.78	0.29
IFG Portfolio Inc	76.33	81.64	+0.80	
St Jms Mkr Inc Inc	47.06	49.96	-0.10	
Presses Portfolio Inc	63.49	67.90	-0.16	1.96
Burgh Strat Gth	67.85	72.57	-0.28	0.35
Tech Analysis	96.03	101.70	+1.10	
Braeburn Growth	42.75	46.69	-0.72	0.37
Interactive Strat	73.09	78.17	+0.17	..
OPC Ind-Act Gth	51.18	55.18	+0.19	..
Coverdale Topcat	46.77	49.97	+0.39	
Prec Equity Inc	108.70	114.40		
Lowes Intl Growth	44.83	47.16	+0.54	1.56
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD Dlg: 0800 626 577 Enq: 01733 470 470				
Equity	234.80	247.70	+2.60	2.73
(Accum Units)	495.50	522.10	+5.40	2.73
Growth	152.70	160.70	+1.50	2.79
Income	232.00	246.60	+2.90	3.68
Intl Equity	242.00	257.40	+4.90	1.22
(Accum Units)	267.50	284.50	-5.50	1.22
UK Income	63.55	68.03	+0.70	3.48
UK Intl 25	77.51	82.46	+1.04	2.40
New Europe	74.89	79.66	+2.18	0.75
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT 01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	555.34	592.95	+3.67	0.75
(Accum Units)	555.91	594.56	+3.67	0.75
Income	351.62	376.07	+1.20	3.42
Worldwide Recovery	357.52	382.38	+5.00	0.63
Amer Growth Inc	213.10	227.82†	-4.90	0.81
(Accum Units)	213.10	227.92	-4.00	0.01
Intl Emerging Cos	222.86	238.36	+2.83	0.27
Far East Gth Inc	253.66	271.30	+6.04	0.52
(Accum Units)	253.66	271.30	+6.04	0.52
Euro Gwth Inc	137.73	147.31	+0.79	0.98
(Accum Units)	138.09	147.69	+0.79	0.98
UK Growth Inc	87.22	93.29†	+0.02	2.86
(Accum Units)	91.73	98.11	+0.02	2.86
High Income	93.34	99.83	+0.26	4.17
Jap Gwth Inc	226.91	222.36†	+11.39	0.01
(Accum Units)	206.81	220.35	+11.35	0.01
PEP Growth	112.31	120.12	+0.81	1.24
Asian Str Mkt Inc	113.49	121.38	-0.05	0.05
(Accum Units)	113.49	121.38	-0.05	0.05
Amer Smlr Co Inc	123.68	132.28	-1.31	0.01
(Accum Units)	123.68	132.73	-1.91	0.01
Global Bond	52.92	55.75†	-0.47	6.07
UK Smaller Cos Inc	77.27	82.65	+0.35	1.66
(Accum Units)	80.27	85.86	+0.36	1.66
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 0191 281 3827				
American	95.10	102.17	+0.56	.
European	66.03	73.24†	-0.50	
Global	57.77	61.46	+0.23	..
Pacific	53.21	58.62	+3.62	
UK Inc & Grth	62.16	66.12†	-0.38	1.96
POINTON YORK UT MGRS 0116 2550 540				
PY Director Opps	87.95	93.67	+0.12	0.35
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD Enq: 0171 638 0808 Dlg: 01277 690 430				
Fund of Funds	151.78	160.19	+0.74	0.11
Emerg Mkts	40.54	42.90	-1.2	
PREMIUM LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD 01444 458 721				
Monthly Income	59.02	62.58	-0.77	2.58
Growth Income	61.65	65.34	+0.89	2.36
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 01722 740 700				
Principal Tst	129.36	137.62†	+1.04	1.73

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
PROLIFIC UNIT TST MGRS LTD Enquiries: 0171 280 3700 Dealing: 0800 262 443				
American Income	89.20	94.56	+1.33	3.68
Conv & Gilt	118.10	117.20†	+0.78	6.44
European Income	71.22	75.76	+1.50	2.57
Extra Income	148.90	156.30†	+3.06	3.85
(Accum Units)	179.80	191.40	+3.70	3.85
Far East	359.80	382.80†	+17.90	0.08
(Accum Units)	366.40	389.80	+18.30	0.08
Global Income	24.20	25.74	+0.31	4.65
High Income	112.80	120.00	+2.90	3.55
(Accum Units)	133.90	142.40	+3.40	3.55
International	180.80	201.10	+7.20	0.88
(Accum Units)	194.80	207.20	+7.40	0.88
Pref & Fxd Int	43.27	46.03	+0.16	7.28
Recovery	70.73	75.25	+0.92	2.80
Special Sits	108.00	114.90	+4.90	1.08
(Accum Units)	116.90	124.40	+5.40	1.09
Technology	386.70	411.40	+1.20	..
UK Blue Chip	67.73	72.05†	+1.15	2.56
(Accum Units)	75.74	80.57	+1.28	2.56
PROVIDENT MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD 0171 588 3903				
Equity Gth	173.80	184.70†	+1.58	1.80
European Gth	93.57	99.16†	+1.11	0.50
Income & Gth #	132.90	141.40†	+2.70	3.05
Japan Gth	109.70	116.50†	+4.50	..
Nth Amer Gth	124.90	131.90†	+1.50	0.13
Overseas Gth	87.44	93.02†	+1.78	.
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0181 478 3377 Client Enq 0171 911 4400				
Managed Tst	36.05	37.35†	+0.54	1.84
Cash Haven Inc	101.36	101.85†	+0.07	5.24
Cash Haven Acc	111.94	112.40†	+0.09	5.24
Dist Trust Inc	94.52	97.54	+0.70	6.26
Dis Trust Acc	97.74	101.28	+0.72	6.26
Global Growth	87.02	92.57	+1.58	1.13
Equity Inc	78.59	83.66†	-0.31	3.58
Equity	709.02	754.27	+9.52	2.40
European	205.01	212.44	+4.86	1.00
High Income	85.33	90.77†	+0.54	5.15
Intl Gth	178.16	189.53	+4.52	0.93
Intl Sm Co	73.72	78.42†	+1.75	0.49
Japanese	203.98	211.29†	+9.85	...
Nth Amer	167.73	173.81	+1.26	1.92
Pacific Mkts	96.15	101.70	+2.41	0.82
Premier Inc	47.00	49.91	+0.85	6.75
Sm Cos	83.44	88.78	+0.33	1.79
Spec Sits	105.67	112.41	+1.01	2.52
UK Growth	118.99	126.58†	+1.87	2.39
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD 01892 510 033				
British Life	294.90	312.70	+2.70	3.27
For Rock Asset see Northern Rock				
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT Dealers: 0171 280 5800				
FA America (Inc)	507.58	540.21	+1.46	0.06
FA America (Acc)	533.42	531.56	+1.71	..
FA UK Equity Inc	155.23	165.49	+1.60	3.73
FA Japan	248.28	261.93	+13.28	..
FA Major UK Cos	94.03	100.24	+1.12	5.51
FA Smlr UK Cos	278.64	302.98†	+1.81	1.37
FA European	305.14	324.43	+4.88	0.67
FA Amer Smlr Cos	43.98	47.19	+0.29	0.13
FA Asia	45.61	48.96	+0.57	0.19
FA Jap Smlr Cos	42.70	45.69	+1.94	
RAM Personal Pension				
UK Major Cos	95.64	100.67	+1.12	...
UK Smlr Cos	80.22	84.43	+0.50	...
UK Income	94.17	99.12	+0.86	...
America	102.01	107.37	+0.28	...
Japanese	54.17	57.01	+2.88	...
European	98.07	103.22	+1.49	..
Gilt	86.89	91.45	-0.69	..
Deposit	84.02	88.44	+0.10	...
Managed	98.70	101.78	+1.04	...
RAM FSAVC Scheme				
UK Major Cos	93.11	98.00	+1.06	...
UK Smaller Cos	78.35	82.47	+0.50	...
UK Income	91.86	96.69	+0.93	...
America	99.26	104.48	+0.28	...
Japanese	52.71	55.48	+2.82	...
European	95.52	100.54	+1.46	...
Gilt	86.80	90.31	-0.19	...
Deposit	80.06	84.37	+0.06	...
Managed	89.90	94.62	+0.92	...
ROYAL LIFE FD MGMT LTD Prices: 01733 282 828 Gen Enq: 01733 390 000				
United States	79.13	84.49	+0.15	0.22
Pacific Basin	70.58	75.92	+2.36	..
High Inc Dist	128.99	137.85†	+1.60	5.15
Ryl Life Intl Ctry	56.85	60.73†	+0.44	4.01
Ryl Life Intl Eqth	64.32	68.65	+1.88	0.023
Ryl Life Intl Spec	59.18	62.95	+1.38	..
UK Emerging Cos	119.90	129.60	+1.08	1.19
UK Index Trckg	159.30	169.70	+0.60	3.34
European	123.28	132.28	+2.50	0.29
Managed	141.80	152.40	+2.20	0.76
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 01206 764 400				
American Growth	145.80	154.40	+2.10	0.41
European Growth	106.70	112.80†	+1.30	1.23
Far East Growth	124.50	132.50	+2.00	0.88
Japan Growth	127.80	135.00	+4.10	..
Special Sits	185.50	197.30†	+3.70	1.59
UK Growth	75.09	79.88	+0.82	2.58
Tollon General	227.80	242.40	+3.70	0.91
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD 0141 307 8500				
Far East Inc	149.20	158.00	+2.80	0.78
Gtr Euro Prog Inc	308.60	328.30	+1.60	0.64
(Accum Units)	498.40	527.40	+2.80	0.64
Growth Inc	124.20	131.40	+1.30	0.69
(Accum Units)	126.58	133.00	+1.40	0.63
International Inc	320.60	339.30	+3.80	0.44
(Accum Units)	439.70	465.30	+5.00	0.44
Nth Am & Intl Inc	308.90	325.90	+1.98	0.54
UK Gen Prog Inc	215.60	229.20	+8.40	1.15
UK High Inc Inc	128.70	136.20	+1.60	8.90
SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD 0171 330 0572				
American Gwth	64.85	65.14	+0.39	...
Amer Smlr Cos	78.15	81.01	+0.86	..
Asian Gwth	103.65	110.28†	+1.48	0.75
European Gwth	64.35	68.46	+0.45	1.00
Global Bd	57.93	61.25†	+0.18	6.00
Global Eq	57.26	61.47	+1.17	0.52
Japanese Eq	49.18	52.32	+2.25	...
Japan Sm Cos	55.14	58.65†	+2.13	..
UK Eqn	49.71	52.88	+0.29	2.80
UK Gwth	57.11	60.75	-0.02	1.75
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP 01708 766 966				
Amer Inc & Gwth #	68.43	72.80	+0.06	3.96
Amer Smlr Cos	112.00	119.20	+0.90	..
Asian Smaller Cos	39.87	42.41	+0.41	..
Capital Portfolio	122.40	131.38	+0.49	2.00
Cash	128.70	128.70†	+0.10	5.85
China Dragon	35.88	38.45	+0.74	0.82
Commodity	117.00	124.50†	+2.80	4.40
Eastern Discovery	89.88	95.08	+2.59	...
Emerging Mkts	35.20	37.45	+0.51	0.42
Energy Inds	118.50	126.10	+2.90	0.77
European Gwth	180.10	191.60	+3.80	...
Euro Inc & Gwth #	74.82	79.38	+0.88	1.55
Euro Smlr Cos	51.75	55.05	-0.01	...
Extra Income #	50.88	52.61	+0.39	5.93
Financial Secs	201.30	214.10	+1.40	1.63
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc #	48.85	49.45†	+0.16	8.99
Gold & Exploration	68.53	72.90	+8.29	...
High Return #	227.70	235.90	+2.08	4.31
High Yield #	219.20	233.20†	+1.80	4.00
Income #	115.70	123.10	+1.10	4.47
Intl Bond	161.20	170.20†		5.38
ITU	196.60	209.10	+2.00	1.65
Japan Growth	161.30	171.60	+9.28	..
Japan Smaller	161.60	171.90	+8.88	..
Korea	61.93	65.88	-1.17	...
Masterbond	52.81	56.29	+0.76	1.29
Scotbits	305.20	324.70	+2.48	1.55
Scotshares #	286.80	305.10	+2.90	2.52
Scotyields #	232.90	247.80†	+2.20	3.88
Select Intl	130.70	139.90	+2.80	8.16
Smaller Cos Inc #	228.70	243.38†	+2.40	4.09
SE Asia	49.73	52.90	+0.77	...
Special Situation	123.50	131.40	+1.20	0.99
UK Equity #	242.20	257.70	+3.78	2.90
UK Growth	63.84	67.92	+0.65	1.68
UK & O'seas	158.90	169.00	+1.80	1.28
UK Smlr Cos Gwth	44.23	47.05	+0.04	0.96
US Growth	147.38	156.70†		0.45
Unix Growth	131.10	139.50	+2.60	0.80
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD Chat: 0800 526 535 Bdc: 0800 526 540				
Retail Funds				
American	249.30	264.92	-2.39	0.93
(Accum Units)	271.21	288.37	-2.61	0.93
European Gwth	71.85	76.25	+1.82	0.90
Euro Smlr Cos	74.88	79.86	+0.81	0.38
Far Eastern Gth	89.54	95.50	+1.64	...
(Accum Units)	91.15	97.23	+1.68	..
Gilt & Fixed Int #	49.38	52.08†	-0.27	8.01
Global Bond #	48.14	50.78	-0.10	7.10
(Accum Units) #	53.92	55.71	-0.11	7.10
Global Emer Mkts	47.98	51.17	+1.24	..
(Accum Units)	47.98	51.17	+1.24	...
Income #	344.10	367.03	+6.37	5.22
(Accum Units) #	£10.94	£11.67	+20.27	5.22
Japan Smlr Cos	443.44	473.09	+17.30	...
(Accum Units)	444.33	473.95	+17.34	..
Japan Enterprise	65.81	70.19	+4.49	..
Pacific Gwth	122.90	131.09†	+1.18	0.39
(Accum Units)	126.67	135.33	+1.23	0.39
Portfolio	78.39	83.61†	+1.30	2.17
(Accum Units)	85.12	90.79	+1.42	2.17
Seoul	46.20	49.71	-1.84	...
(Accum Units)	46.20	49.71	-1.84	..
Smaller Cos	201.95	215.41	+0.99	1.52
Tokyo	119.21	127.15†	+6.73	.
(Accum Units)	120.41	128.43	+6.80	...
UK Enterprise	252.33	269.15	+3.31	2.16
(Accum Units)	302.70	322.88	+3.98	2.16
UK Equity	236.63	252.40	+3.57	2.79
(Accum Units)	459.80	490.45	+6.83	2.79
US Smlr Cos	158.01	168.54	-0.89	...
(Accum Units)	45.84	47.74	-0.17	0.65
Institutional Funds				
European	229.54	238.54	+6.93	1.28
(Accum Units)	255.58	265.60	+7.71	1.28
Euro Smlr Cos	27.79	28.94	+0.37	1.69
(Accum Units)	29.48	30.70	+0.39	1.69
Global Equity Inc	75.48	78.54	+1.83	0.94
Japan Smlr Cos	36.53	38.05	+1.47	0.27
(Accum Units)	36.82	38.35	+1.48	0.27
Mngd Balanced	184.29	192.07	+2.45	2.89
(Accum Units)	208.03	216.70	+2.79	2.89
Overseas Equity	181.15	188.69	+5.23	1.22
(Accum Units)	187.56	195.37	+5.41	1.22
Oseas Smlr Cos	119.11	124.07†	+2.12	0.75
(Accum Units)	124.41	129.59	+2.22	0.75
Pacific	231.54	241.18	+1.91	1.34
(Accum Units)	252.65	263.17	+2.08	1.34
Recovery	£17.82	£18.57	+16.78	3.02
(Accum Units)	£18.84	£19.63	+17.75	3.02
UK Index	151.34	157.64	+1.78	3.51
(Accum Units)	184.62	192.31	+2.15	3.51
UK Small Cos	107.10	111.50†	+0.62	2.95
(Accum Units)	114.81	119.59	+0.67	2.95
US Smlr Cos	45.04	46.91	-0.17	0.68
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD 0141 204 2200				
Equity Income	49.97	52.15	+0.58	3.95
Equity Trust	60.35	64.27	+0.95	3.50
Equity Strategy	69.76	74.29	+0.86	1.51
European Opps	83.41	88.83	+1.94	1.27
UK Smaller Cos	60.00	62.84	+0.87	1.42
Moderate Inc	98.40	101.83	+0.09	6.68
Japanese	72.71	77.44	+5.29	0.0
Asia Pacific	118.87	148.08	+0.95	1.38
American	100.13	106.64	+1.64	0.82
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD 0800 454 422				
Cash	31.15	31.15	+0.02	6.75
UK General Inc	51.21	54.62	+0.08	2.84
(Accum Units)	65.75	70.14	+1.13	2.84
Intl Income	257.20	273.60†	+0.89	1.01
(Accum Units)	441.60	468.70†	+11.70	1.01
European	76.80	81.35	+1.91	1.47
Japan	65.56	70.54	+2.93	0.06
American	68.51	72.45†	+0.34	1.52
Far East	58.21	65.56	+1.02	0.76
Ethical Inc	28.52	30.50†	+0.23	2.15
UK Blue Chip Inc	33.25	35.35†	+0.52	2.95
High Inc Inc	34.98	37.32	+0.35	3.44

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Global Inc	38.20	40.69†	+0.85	1.67
Wwide Tech	68.61	72.47†	+1.68	1.25
Europe 2000 Tech	51.14	54.34	+0.86	1.51
Technology	107.15	114.16†	+0.83	1.51
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	376.80	402.30†	+4.90	2.86
American	258.80	274.70†		0.55
Pacific	369.50	392.00†	+13.40	0.87
European	541.30	576.50†	+19.80	1.40
Worldwide	85.46	91.40†	+2.09	0.75
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD 0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	262.50	279.30	+2.80	2.37
(Accum Units)	331.30	352.50	+3.60	2.37
UK Str Co Eq Inc	189.40	201.50	+2.20	2.32
(Accum Units)	227.00	241.50	+2.60	2.32
Select Opptys Inc	64.98	69.54†	+0.74	2.28
Income Plus Inc	69.15	73.57†	+1.42	3.95
European Inc	327.60	348.60	+6.60	1.23
(Accum Units)	378.20	393.90	+7.50	1.23
Far Eastern Inc	163.10	173.60	+2.10	0.82
(Accum Units)	185.70	197.60	+2.30	0.82
Japanese Inc	58.85	62.61	+3.04	..
Nth American Inc	235.60	251.00	-0.40	0.66
(Accum Units)	258.80	278.40	-0.40	0.66
Intl Growth Inc	191.60	203.90	+5.20	0.80
Wwide Venture Inc	76.58	81.47†	+1.29	1.92
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT 0131 655 3724				
Equity Inc	357.10	380.80	+4.80	2.97
(Accum Units)	522.70	556.80	+7.10	2.97
UK High Inc	181.90	193.80	+4.60	4.80
(Accum Units)	261.20	278.80	+6.60	4.60
Europe Inc	343.30	366.10	+4.90	0.54
Nth Amer Inc	217.70	232.80	+1.80	..
Global Inc	191.20	203.90	+5.40	0.44
UK Spec Sits Inc	95.80	102.00	+1.40	3.39
South East Asia	207.80	221.70	+4.60	0.80
Cash Trust Inc	101.30	101.30	+0.10	5.50
UK Smlr Cos Inc	95.17	102.60	+1.30	2.36
(Accum Units)	98.35	104.90	+1.30	2.36
Intl Bond Inc	91.19	96.81	-0.03	6.32
SEMPER EADEM FUND MGMT LTD Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Sector Recovery	138.10	145.10	+1.40	4.65
SHARP (ALBERT E) Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
European	122.20	128.80	+3.20	0.86
Nth American	103.10	108.50	+0.20	0.05
Intl Bond & Conv	120.50	126.80	-0.70	5.74
Packed Pension (C)	180.20	193.80	+2.56	2.21
Smaller Cos	70.74	74.45	+1.05	1.50
UK General	128.90	133.60	+1.50	1.98
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD 0171 626 0225				
Amer Gth Fund†	181.20		+1.81	...
Asset	64.98		+0.65	...
European‡	121.20		+1.30	..
Global Bond‡	94.71		-0.05	7.80
Samurai‡	58.50		+5.36	..
UK Growth‡	95.92		+0.67	2.85
Tul Port	97.44		+2.15	..
UK Emrg Leaders‡	95.36		+0.93	1.41
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS 0171 637 5377				
American	308.40	328.20	+8.50	...
Canadian	68.51	67.20	+0.60	0.62
Capital	117.10	125.40	+1.10	1.76
Cash	100.18	100.18†	+0.08	6.17
European	126.30	133.80	-0.90	1.18
Far Eastern	144.10	152.50	+4.40	..
Growth	128.20	135.70	+1.90	1.45
Income	128.40	137.30†	+0.80	5.98
Magnum	127.20	134.60	+0.90	1.75
Smllr Secs	353.20	373.70†	+3.60	1.25
Recongnised	145.60	156.10	+0.90	1.61
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD 01202 298 422				
Cash	50.32	50.82	+0.03	5.40
Capital Finance	53.18	56.72†	-0.11	0.20
Ethical	53.89	57.32†	+0.37	2.70
European Growth	71.35	76.10	+1.30	3.18
Income	52.97	59.60	+0.06	6.30
Intl Growth	95.16	101.50	+1.50	3.00
Managed	80.65	86.02	+0.91	3.80
UK Growth	59.80	63.78†	+0.04	3.58
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS 0800 393 777				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	36.40	38.60	+0.72	1.83
Global Advtg Acc	41.15	41.36	+0.74	1.93
Income Advtg Inc	30.72	30.80†	+0.25	4.28
Income Advtg Acc	34.08	34.24	+0.28	4.28
UK Equity Gth Acc	64.84	67.88	+1.18	1.58
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
Managed Acc	49.81	52.95	+0.83	1.70
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc	38.29	38.56	+0.62	3.80
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc	44.95	47.78	+0.77	3.80
UK Equity Gen Acc	61.27	65.01	+0.82	2.38
UK Equity Gen Inc	45.27	48.18	+0.60	2.38
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	30.54	32.30	+0.09	8.40
Oseas Lrg Co Acc	304.10	330.00	+8.30	1.50
Nth American Acc	45.20	48.07	+0.46	0.78
Far East Acc	66.01	70.14	+1.80	0.23
European Acc	50.90	54.18	+0.84	1.02
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD 0171 344 7000				
Global A (US$)	3.487	3.521	+0.05	1.88
US Eqts (US$)	2.510	2.873	+0.05	0.85
Far East Eqts (yen)	217.30	224.40	+8.60	...
Japan Eqties (yen)	191.30	203.20	+1.40	...
FT Europe	122.90	130.40	-0.30	1.95
FT N Amer (US$)	1.913	2.028	+0.03	0.88
FT Japan (yen)	197.70	210.00	+9.40	..
FT Asia Exjp (US$)	2.405	2.554	+0.05	1.45
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0131 226 3271				
American	373.60	397.20	+4.80	..
British #	958.00	£10.19†	+3.40	3.81
Emerging Mkts	128.00	136.08	+1.70	...
European	526.30	559.50	+8.10	0.61
Japan	138.80	147.50	+8.50	..
New Pacific	356.20	379.30	+1.60	1.72
(Accum Units)	375.40	399.60	+1.76	0.72
Inv Trust Acc	245.80	260.50	+2.00	0.88
Mngd Equity	168.70	178.50	+1.90	1.71
Mngd Cash	95.30	95.30	+0.06	5.47
SUN ALLIANCE UNIT TST MGMT LTD Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 389				
Equity	809.70	856.40	+10.40	3.65
North America	121.60	130.30	-0.50	0.64
Far East	138.60	148.10	+4.60	0.39
Wwide Bond	57.38	60.60	-0.01	5.05
European	98.83	105.70	+2.30	0.22
Equity Income	87.27	93.34	+1.13	4.95
Portfolio	82.76	88.51	+1.22	2.04
UK Leading Cos	59.66	63.87	+0.82	3.77
Broker Trusts				
Intl Equity	62.95	67.33	+0.58	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD 0800 525 725				
American Growth	33.61	35.95	+0.80	0.75
Managed Assets	124.05	132.60	+1.54	2.84
UK Income	40.17	42.97	+0.43	5.28
UK Growth	38.53	41.21	+0.38	2.48
Worldwide Growth	34.32	36.71	+0.81	1.18
SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD Admin & Enq: 0171 606 4044 Dlg: 0171 606 6010				
Discretionary	45.58	49.83	+1.20	...
Cap Protector Inc	41.00	43.85	+0.59	2.87
UK Income Inc	49.96	53.43	+1.82	3.47
Mngd Extra Inc Inc #	31.92	34.14	+0.26	3.85
Mngd High Yld Inc	77.38	82.74	+0.70	4.27
Mngd Inc/Gth Inc	73.77	78.90	+1.24	3.74
UK Smaller Cos	33.31	35.63	+1.17	2.00
Pacific Gth Fnd	44.34	47.42†	+0.97	0.58
TSB UNIT TRUSTS 01264 346 794				
American	206.18	220.30	+1.28	...
(Accum Units)	229.30	242.64	+1.40	...
Brit Growth	95.45	101.81†	+2.25	2.28
(Accum Units)	115.76	122.50†	+2.72	2.28
European	100.67	106.53†	+1.64	0.76
(Accum Units)	107.06	113.29†	+1.75	0.76
Extra Income	189.24	200.25†	+5.23	4.44
(Accum Units)	325.91	344.88†	+9.88	4.44
Smaller Cos	69.61	73.66†	+2.68	1.74
(Accum Units)	78.50	83.07†	+3.04	1.74
General	280.89	297.24	+8.39	2.63
(Accum Units)	581.42	615.26	+17.36	2.63
Premier Income	49.68	51.12	+0.94	6.27
(Accum Units)	112.13	116.81	+2.16	6.27
Income	326.25	345.24	+9.86	3.95
(Accum Units)	715.35	756.98	+21.67	3.95
Pacific	392.83	415.69	+13.38	..
(Accum Units)	412.77	436.79	+16.16	..
International	522.35	552.66	+18.54	0.39
(Accum Units)	686.74	726.71	+21.75	0.39
Nat Resources	148.72	157.38	+4.69	..
Spcl Opps	104.22	110.29†	+3.11	1.37
(Accum Units)	133.43	141.20†	+3.98	1.37
Environmental Inv	62.06	65.67†	+2.05	1.91
Selector	61.35	64.92	+1.63	2.13
(Accum Units)	69.20	73.23	+2.07	2.13
High Income	63.52	67.21	+1.59	4.81
(Accum Units)	80.92	85.63	+1.91	4.81
Intl Income	57.22	60.55†	+0.59	5.32
(Accum Units)	71.89	76.08†	+0.88	5.32
Selector Income	60.42	63.94	+1.22	4.79
(Accum Units)	70.96	75.09	+1.43	4.79
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED 0181 657 1818				
British	320.30	337.10†	+4.20	2.82
TEMPLETON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 469 4000				
Glob Growth Inc	192.86	208.27	+4.16	2.12
Glob Balncd Inc	166.24	177.80	+3.17	3.75
Value Tst Inc	117.33	125.49	+2.11	1.94
THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD 0171 246 3000 Dealing: 0171 246 3001				
Dresdner Eur Bd	40.20	42.44	+0.42	7.50
European Growth	262.54	278.20	+5.02	0.50
Exempt	542.77	555.22†	-1.16	3.10
Global Em Mkts	77.02	82.15	+2.18	0.40
Japan Tst	74.70	79.54	+4.51	..
Little Dragons	84.48	90.11	+1.85	..
Nth Amer Gwth	228.41	243.20	+0.39	0.60
Oriental Income	42.22	45.08	+0.74	2.50
Preference	126.03	134.79	+0.33	8.70
Tiger	261.86	279.33	+3.84	..
(Accum Units)	275.13	293.47	+3.93	..
UK Blue Chip	61.48	65.57	+0.85	2.88
UK Growth	498.28	530.78	+4.35	2.40
UK High Yield	101.23	106.26†	+0.92	4.80
(Accum Units)	332.37	355.43†	+7.32	4.68
UK Mid-Cap	242.51	258.79	+2.32	2.40
UK Smlr Cos	94.82	101.51	+0.42	1.20
UK Smlr Cos Div	82.96	88.74	-0.12	5.58
UNITED FRIENDLY UNIT TST MGMT LTD 01277 690 336				
UK Equity Income	97.67	103.27	+1.24	3.20
UK Equity Growth	85.88	91.37†	+1.06	2.55
European	68.39	72.75	+1.79	1.21
Nth American	70.24	74.72	+1.47	1.11
Far Eastern	67.35	71.44	+1.91	0.84
Money	57.48	57.48	+0.05	4.67
Fixed Interest	71.33	75.88	-0.08	8.60
Index Linked Gilt	65.33	69.50†	-0.10	1.37
WAVERLEY UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0131 225 1551				
Australian Gold	23.23	24.49	-0.01	...
Pacific Basin	41.11	43.27	+0.06	...
Global Bond (US$)	0.87	0.93	+0.01	..
Penny Share	35.70	37.57	+0.79	..
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0171 600 0402				
Challenger	94.46	96.66	-0.21	...
Short Dtd Gilt	112.30	113.70	+0.20	...
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.74	0.75	+0.00	0.84
Gilt Income	49.22	51.22†	+0.06	7.50
Gilt Capital	70.19	73.09	-0.25	..
City Reserve	52.31	52.31	+0.03	5.75
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0181 298 4000				
Intl Mgd	48.20	51.88	+0.87	1.91
UK Stockmkt	77.93	82.90	+0.40	2.85

Source: Finstat

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; ... No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital; @ Exit Charge.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

Futures drive shares sharply lower

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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THE TIMES

Four weddings and a Caribbean honeymoon

To celebrate the release on video of the much-acclaimed *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, over the next four weeks *The Times* will be giving four couples the chance to win a fabulous honeymoon in the Caribbean, courtesy of the specialist tour operator Caribbean Connection.

Each winning couple will also receive an elegant Pronuptia bridal dress worth £600, plus suit hire for the groom: a pair of gold wedding rings together worth £300 from Mappin & Webb: and a case of Cordon Rouge champagne from the House of Mumm.

Two hundred runners-up will receive a copy of the video of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*; another 50 readers will receive copies of the film's soundtrack.



Top destination: the Coral Reef Club in Barbados

A time to remember

EACH of the four weeks of the competition will highlight a different idyllic destination, with honeymoons to be won in Barbados, St Lucia, Antigua and Grenada. Caribbean Connection will offer winning couples a seven-night stay with bed and breakfast in luxurious hotel accommodation. In Barbados the winners will stay at the Coral Reef Club, which has two tennis courts, water sports, a beach bar and full programme of entertainment.

Caribbean Connection offers the most extensive range of luxury hotels, villas and yachts in the region, along with more than 20 years of experience. The company has a department specialising in arrangements for couples wanting to get married abroad and many of their hotels offer exclusive wedding and honeymoon packages.

As a special offer to readers, Caribbean Connection will reduce by £200 per couple the cost of an island honeymoon taken before November 30, 1995. For further information phone 01244 341131.

Four lucky brides will choose the dress of their dreams, to a value of £600, from wedding attire specialists Pronuptia Youngs. Their nationwide range of stores offers exclusive collections by Jeff Banks and Laura Ashley side by side with their own label. Grooms will be able to choose their wedding suit from Youngs Formal Wear.

Mappin & Webb, who are giving away our wedding rings, offer a wide range of traditional and contemporary jewellery. For details of your nearest Mappin & Webb branch, and a copy of their ring catalogue, phone 0171 409 3377.

CARIBBEAN CONNECTION
THE CARIBBEAN SPECIALISTS

MAPPIN & WEBB

CHAMPAGNE G.H. MUMM & CO. REIMS-FRANCE

PRONUPTIA YOUNGS

For your chance to win one of four dream honeymoons in the Caribbean simply collect any four of the eight tokens which will appear in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* over the next four weeks.

Token one appears below and your second token will appear in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow. Send them with your name and address to: Four Weddings Contest, 5 Brittons Court, EC88 6NG.

The winners and their honeymoon destinations will be selected at random from all correct entries received by the closing date of May 6 1995.

Four Weddings and a Funeral attracted huge audiences in both Britain and America.

Now it is being released by Polygram Video at £14.99 – but for five weeks only. After April 30, stocks will be withdrawn until a second release in the autumn.





Four Weddings and a Funeral
Token One

London Marathon offers Briton chance to restore fortunes after injury

McColgan aims to halt Dorre's run

By David Powell
Athletics Correspondent

WHEN Damon Hill waves his starter's flag to commence the NutraSweet London Marathon tomorrow, it may strike him as ironic that a Briton and a German will be the focus of attention. While Hill and Schumacher take a weekend off from Formula One, television will turn its eyes on Liz McColgan and Katrin Dorre.

Hill will send the elite women's race away at 9am, followed by the men's elite start, and the mass field at 9.30. The separation will ensure that the climax to the women's event is reached down The Mall some ten minutes before the men's. A British winner is not expected.

Dorre, champion for the last three years, is the favourite but McColgan has been insisting this week that she is ready to make a race of it. After two years in the international wilderness because of various injuries, McColgan is desperate to prove that she is not yesterday's runner.

Should Dorre succeed, she would become the first athlete, man or woman, to win four successive London titles. She believes only McColgan or Manuela Machado, of Portugal, the European champion, have even the slightest chance of stopping her. The last woman representing Britain to win in London was the French-born Veronique Marot, in 1989.

Dorre will not worry if McColgan and Machado, renowned front runners, disappear into the distance. When Dorre won in 1993, McColgan and Lisa Ondieki paid the price of an early pace that left the German, a patient competitor, almost a minute behind at one stage.

The best British men, Eamonn Martin and Paul Evans, sounded hopeful yesterday but, such is the quality of the field assembled by David Bedford, the elite race director, that there can be no accusation of engineering a home victory. With Dionicio Cerón, Steve Moneghetti and Antonio Pinto present, the bookmakers' odds on Evans (25-1) and Martin (33-1) seem about right.

"I have taken the view that we should have fewer elite athletes but of a higher class," Bedford said. "At one time we had 120 to 130 and 50 to 60 women. We have reduced that to 55 and 15. Our elite budget remains £1 million."

NutraSweet LONDON MARATHON '95 cubus

IN ASSOCIATION WITH BUPA

Only in The Times next week: the complete list of London Marathon finishers

While the backmarkers in the 25,000 field will be travelling through East London no quicker than Ronnie Kray's funeral cortège did on Wednesday, Cerón and Moneghetti will be moving at close to world-record pace. How close depends on the weather and, with westerly winds forecast, thoughts of a fast time may have to give way to sensible racing.

No man has won London twice but now Cerón, Pinto and Martin have a chance. Cerón, from Mexico, the victor last year, said that, in good conditions, he thought he could run inside Belayneh Dinsamo's world mark of 2hr 06min 50sec. Moneghetti, from Australia, the Commonwealth champion, thought he might manage 2hr 07min 30sec. Pinto was having none of this. "I shall follow them with a sack and put them in as I go past," he said.

A Portuguese double is not inconceivable. Pinto, like Machado, should be well placed to take advantage should the favourites fail. Pinto, the 1992 London winner, won in Berlin last autumn in 2hr 08min 31sec.

Although Britain has enjoyed some successes in the Nineties — London wins for Allister Hutton (1990) and Martin (1993) and a World Cup victory for Richard Nerurkar (1993) — no British athlete since Tony Milovsorov, in 1989, has broken 2hr 10min. Martin said yesterday that he was ready to run a "significant personal best". His fastest is 2hr 10min 50sec. Aged 36, he is aiming to become London's oldest male winner. Not that age should concern him: Carlos Lopes set a world best of 2hr 07min 12sec at 38.

Evans has failed to finish three of his seven marathons but can joke about it. Discussing his easy training week before the race, he said: "I will probably do about 20 miles in the week of the race and that includes the race." Again he plans to go with the pace, hoping not to buckle as he did in the world championships.

After his European half-marathon best of 60min 09sec, Evans is confident. He is also motivated by the comment made by Malcolm Arnold, the Great Britain chief coach, that he resembled a carthorse. "It was like a red rag to a bull," Evans said yesterday. "Every time I run well, I think 'not bad for a carthorse'."

London's course records have stood for ten years: Ingrid Kristiansen's 2hr 21min 06sec is not under threat but Steve Jones's 2hr 08min 16sec is, especially as the world best bonus has been doubled from last year, to $100,000 (about £66,000).

Others to the fore should include Willie Mtolo, of South Africa. You can pick out Mtolo from two three-inch scars on each cheek, marks of a Zulu tradition. For a typically British distinguishing mark, look for Evans's Tottenham Hotspur tattoo.

Marathoners borne along by memories

Andrew Longmore tries to keep up with an elite group of long-distance runners as they retrace past triumphs and disappointments

JAMES MORGAN



Indulging in a gentle jog down memory lane at their reunion are marathoners, from left, back row: Basil Heatley, Jim Hogan, Steve Jones, Charlie Spedding, Bill Adcocks. Middle row: Don Faircloth, Ron Hill, Ian Thompson, Jim Alder, Jim Peters, Brian Kilby. Front row: Joyce Smith, Jack Holden, Peter Wilkinson.

I had gone through the pain barrier over the apple pie and hit the wall by coffee time. Just listening made my knees ache and my mind numb. But, on they went, the marathon men, tramping into the dawn, reminiscing a little, arguing a lot, their tongues doing the talking now that their legs had, for the most part, given way.

Each member of the Super 17, the finest group of British marathon runners ever assembled, has more miles on the clock than a sales rep's car and a reunion dinner two nights before the NutraSweet London Marathon provided the ideal excuse to trade memories.

It was shop talk mainly, spoken in a common language of hours and minutes. These were men who have lived their lives by the clock for once not having to count the seconds. Medal-winners or world record-holders every one. Ron Hill, Ian Thompson, Charlie Spedding and Mike Gratton. When Chris Brasher, the chairman of the club, stood to toast the group's two world record-holders — Steve Jones and Jim Peters — two more hands shot up, those of Basil Heatley and Jim Alder, also world record-holders in their time. Brasher gave up in the end and toasted everyone.

But only one man receives an unspoken toast every year. Jack Holden is 88 and walks with a stick, but his memory is as sharp as his Midlands accent and his fund of stories, limitless.

Holden ran the last ten miles barefoot to win gold in the British Empire Games in Auckland in 1950 and beat off a Great Dane in the closing stages. Because his white running shorts — "always wore spotless white, you know, to frighten my opponents" — were spattered with blood, everyone presumed he had been bitten. But the blood was from his feet.

"Cut to ribbons they were," he said. "I knew when I went out to the Games I needed a new pair of shoes, but you couldn't break in a new pair in a race, so I used the old ones. After a few miles, there was a torrential downpour and they just fell apart, my feet kept slipping off the soles. I thought about asking one of the spectators for a handkerchief to tie the soles back on, but I was worried about being disqualified, so I just threw them away."

Holden, a groundsman by trade, had to pick his way across a road resurfaced with chippings before he reached the line in 2hr 32min 14sec. He recovered his shoes, though, and presented them to the couple who had been his hosts during the Games and he kept running until, at the age of 70, he found he no longer had the strength to combat a fierce wind on the seafront at Weston-super-Mare. "That was it," he said. "Packed it in there and then."

Then there was Alder, running so fast through the Jamaican dawn in the 1966 Commonwealth Games that he surprised officials at the stadium, who sent him round the car park. Second-placed man, Bill Adcocks, was already into the stadium and heading for the finish by the time Alder was rerouted. "It was the royal party's fault. They had just arrived and the officials were all too busy worrying about them," Alder said. He won anyway.

And the Irishman, Jim Hogan, European champion turned professional punter — "only small sums, mind" — stopping off en route from Worcester races to Huntingdon to recount the day he chased Abebe Bikila in the 1964 Olympic marathon in Tokyo and had to pull out after 35 kilometres, the ultimate insult for a marathon man. He was taken back to the hotel on a stretcher.

Inevitably, talk turned to old versus new. "Our favourite topic," as Charlie Spedding called it. The demise of British long-distance running, lack of commitment, shortage of top-class competition, fear and money. Too much money. "Jim, what was the best prize you won," Alder was asked. "A little oak table. A beauty it is, still got it. But I won so many pen-and-pencil sets I didn't know what to do with them all. Now they're so busy chasing the money they forget about the medals."

An eloquent defence was mounted by Jones, who earned enough from his career to live and train in Colorado these days. "You have to be full-time now and that's expensive." "Rubbish" shouted the bricklayer, Alder. "If you win medals, the money will pour in." "Oh yes?" queried the Olympic bronze medal-winner and pharmacist, Spedding, wondering where he had gone wrong.

Consensus did emerge finally, fuelled by wine and brandy, and a letter drawn up for the attention of the officers of the British Athletic Federation, which stressed their concern at the decline in the standard of British distance running and the lack of focus on winning medals. What they all utterly and touchingly failed to grasp was that great marathon runners cannot be groomed or bought. They are unique. A glance around the table would have shown them that.

Cannock ready for three-way charge

By Sydney Friskin

THE National Hockey League championship could be decided on goal difference in the tightest finish since its inception in 1988 if the three teams in the running — Teddington, Cannock and Reading — finish their weekend fixtures with victories.

Cannock, who are six goals better off than Teddington and 12 ahead of Reading, are at home today to Havant, the champions last year, who have had a disappointing season. Havant will be without the injured Williams and Faulkner and will also miss Rowlands, their first-choice goalkeeper, and Taylor, the half back, both being unavailable. They still have enough talent, however, to upset the odds.

Cannock's remaining match will be tomorrow against Firebrands, who are fighting relegation and will rely on the England goalkeeper, Mason. Failure by Cannock to secure full points from the two matches will leave Teddington in a position to take the title, provided they are successful in their trip to East Grinstead, who, although having no chance themselves, will try for a better position than eighth, which they now hold.

Teddington have, in recent weeks, relied mainly on Billson and McGuire to get the goals, both having come to the rescue in a crisis. McGuire, a member of England's World Cup team in Australia, has scored 16 goals from penalty strokes and short corners.

Reading are at home today to Old Loughtonians, holding ninth position and not playing particularly well without Halls, who is in Australia. Reading, who need to win to retain a chance, will be on a trip tomorrow to Stourport, where they can expect stiff opposition with Imran Sherwani and Knott still searching for goals.

Guildford, who complete their fixtures tomorrow with a visit to Trojans, will expect Jennings to add to his 18 goals, which have put him at the top of the list of leading scorers.

At best, Southgate can achieve respectability if they manage an away win against Old Loughtonians.

The result of the second division match between Doncaster and Barford Tigers will decide who accompanies St Albans to the first division next season. Doncaster need to win; a draw will do for Barford Tigers.

TOP OF THE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Teddington	16	12	1	3	46	23	37
Cannock	15	10	4	1	48	17	34
Guildford	16	11	1	4	52	27	34
Reading	15	11	1	3	34	17	34

Sheehan on Bridge

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Your partner opens 1NT (12 - 14). You hold:

(A) ♠98762 ♥AK872 ♦75 ♣10
(B) ♠KQJ97 ♥AQ654 ♦Q3 ♣10

What would you bid? When the first of these hands occurred in the Crans-sur-Sierre Pairs tournament, this was the full deal:

Dealer North — East West game — Match pointed pairs

	♠A5 ♥1095 ♦AJ4 ♣A9842	
♠Q103 ♥J43 ♦982 ♣KQJ7	N W E S	♠KJ4 ♥Q6 ♦KQ1063 ♣653
	♠98762 ♥AK872 ♦75 ♣10	

After East had passed North's 1NT bid, several different approaches were tried on the South hand. Some made weak take-outs into hearts or spades, either via transfers or direct bids. It was pot luck whether they chose hearts or spades. On the actual deal, hearts is better, but, if North had had three spades and two hearts, bidding Two Hearts (weak and natural) over 1NT would have led to an inferior contract.

Much the best approach on the South hand is to bid a Stayman Two Clubs. Beginners are taught that Stayman should be used only to find 4-4 fits, and in general that is so. However, if you think that you can "control" (less pejorative than "mastermind") the auction, you can use Stayman on other types of hand.

Here, if your partner responds in a major to Two Clubs, you can pass (though, if he responds Two Spades it is not unreasonable to bid on); if he responds Two Diamonds, you can bid Two Hearts. The intelligent partner holding three spades and two hearts will say to himself "he wouldn't bother with Two Clubs if he had only got hearts — he must have at least four spades".

So with a 3-2-4-4 shape, North will remove Two Hearts into Two Spades. Hence, by bidding Two Clubs over 1NT South will always get to the best major-suit fit.

Keene on Chess

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Final Tribute

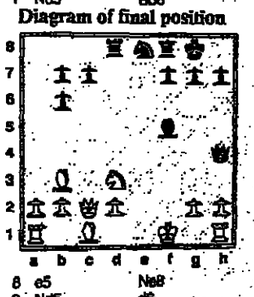
Today I round off my tribute to Sir Stuart Milner-Barry who died last weekend. The first of the two games sees a fine attacking performance from Sir Stuart, while in the second he demonstrates fine technique to breach his opponent's defences in an equal-looking endgame.

White: Tylor
Black: Sir Stuart Milner-Barry
Hastings 1938

Four Knights Game

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Nc3	Nf6
4	Bb5	Nd4
5	Ba4	Bc5
6	Nxe5	0-0
7	Nd3	Bb6

Diagram of final position



8	e5	Ne8
9	Nd5	d6
10	c3	Qh4
11	Ne3	Qe4
12	Nb4	dxe5
13	cxd4	exd4
14	Qc2	Qe5
15	f4	Qxd4
16	Nc4	Qh4+
17	Kf1	d3
18	Nxd3	Bf5
19	Nxb6	axb6
20	Bb3	Rd8

White resigns

White: Oskam
Black: Sir Stuart Milner-Barry
London v Rotterdam Match 1936

Vienna Game

1	e4	e5
2	Nc3	Nf6
3	Bc4	Nxe4
4	Qh5	Nd6
5	Qxe5+	Qe7
6	Qxe7+	Bxe7
7	Bb3	Nc6
8	Nf3	0-0
9	Nd5	Bd8
10	c3	Re8+
11	Ne3	Na5
12	Bc2	Nxc4
13	0-0	Nxe3
14	fxe3	b6
15	d3	f5
16	Bd2	Bf6
17	Rae1	Bb7
18	Bc1	Re7
19	Nd4	g6
20	Ne2	Rae8
21	Bd2	Kg7
22	Nf4	Nf7
23	Bb3	c6
24	Bc2	d5
25	g3	h5
26	h4	Ne5
27	b3	Ng4
28	Ng2	c5
29	d4	Ba6
30	Rf3	cxd4
31	cxd4	Rc7
32	Rb1	Kf7
33	Kh1	Bg7
34	Nf4	Bxd4
35	Nxg6	Kxg6
36	Rxd5	Bf6
37	Re5+	Kf7
38	Rg6+	Kxg6
39	Rxe8	Rc2
40	Bb4	Nf2+
41	Kg1	White resigns

After 41 ... Nh3+ 42. Kh1 Bd3 is decisive.

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Harlequins spring selection surprise in attempt to unseat Bath

Pears drops into No 10 jersey to vie with Catt

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE topsy-turvy career of David Pears takes another twist today. Pears, who last appeared for Harlequins in Ireland on September 3, has been selected at stand-off half in the side which will bid to halt Bath's stampede towards a ninth Pilkington Cup Final.

It is a selection that will take Bath by surprise, which may be the point of the exercise since Harlequins did not expect to put him back into action until later this month. "He has come through both fitness and opposed training sessions with flying colours and we would not have selected him unless we believed the decision to be the right one," Keith Richardson, the club coach, said.

Pears, 27, has suffered a litany of injuries. The latest were to chest muscles in Durban last May, which caused him to be sent home from the England tour of South Africa, then damage to a groin, which was sustained while kicking at goal against Blackrock College on the first Saturday of the season.

Yet, he is the one player who, on form, offers genuine back-up to Rob Andrew as the England No 10. "It's good to be back at No 10," Pears, who has three caps, said yesterday with a degree of fervour. He has spent the last couple of seasons at full back. "There is no presure, even though this is a semi-final," he said. "We'll just give it a go."

Ironically, he plays at the Stoop Memorial Ground today opposite Mike Catt — the man who at present is the understudy to Andrew — in a semi-final which Harlequins are expected to lose. They have struggled all season in the league, which they claim is their main concern, and have yet to beat Bath in either of the premier competitions.

Yet Bath, beaten by Wasps at Sudbury last Saturday, will tread warily in the knowledge that, at the same stage last season, they were so nearly turfed out of the cup at the Stoop. They have had the strength to omit Victor Ubogu, the England prop, after he unexpectedly became unavailable for the game at Wasps, and they will use positively the disappointment felt by such as Nigel Redman and John Hall over their omission from the England World Cup squad. They will blend that with the youthful enthusiasm of Yates and Mallett, and trust that the battle of the England centres ends in their favour.

The other semi-final brings together Leicester and Wasps, whose league meeting four weeks ago ended in a conclusive victory for Leicester. In their previous cup meetings, however, each club has won twice.

Wasps might regard themselves as on a modest roll after bringing down Bath. "That was a memorable win," Dean Ryan, their captain, said. "We always believe that we are capable of being up there with the best — Bath and Leicester — but the only way of proving that is to beat them." Ryan will not have to contend with the octopus-like grasp of Dean Richards, the injured Leicester captain, who hopes to have recovered from rib damage by mid-April.

Instead, Leicester give Chris Tarbuck, a more than useful stand-in, another game at No 8 alongside Neil Back, who has recovered from flu. It is a tribute to the consistency of three of the four semi-finalists that they are within sight of a league and cup double, something that Bath have achieved on three occasions. Should they take Leicester win today, as form, on the one hand, and home advantage, on the other, suggest there will be a repeat of the 1994 final at Twickenham on May 6.

CHRIS SMITH



Watson is determined to make a big impression on the England selectors after his move to Harlequins

Watson likes his change of homes

David Hands meets a player on the way up after his move down from West Hartlepool

The enduring memory that Bath have of Mick Watson is of the long-striding northerner pulling away from Steve Ojomoh to score what may qualify as the Courage league try of the season. Back in October, when Bath sneaked away from Brierton Lane with a breathless 20-18 win, Watson was the West Hartlepool No 8; today he crosses Bath's path again in the multi-colours of Harlequins.

Watson's curious career has taken him from Sunderland to the City, from beneath the bonnets of Army lorries to the collars and ties of the broking business, from the leafy Hampshire fastness of Alton to the semi-finals of the Pilkington Cup at the Stoop Memorial Ground. Yet his talent is sufficient to convince two former England coaches of his international potential.

Can he achieve so much at 29, when many players' best years are behind them? Watson believes he can, even though he has wasted — if only in rugby terms — another year by moving from Hartlepool, where he fell out with the Barry Taylor, the Australian coach, to Harlequins, where he fell in with Dick Best but had to wait 120 days to qualify for his new club.

"He has gained the respect of all the players here," Best said. "He has the ability, rather like Ben Clarke, to go five yards forward every time he gets the ball. He's very difficult to put down and very strong in the upper body. He's still some way off peak fitness, having spent so much time playing in the second team until he became eligible, but other than that he has England written all over him."

Watson joined the Army at 19 and was posted to Bordon, in Hampshire, where he played for Alton. He was not one to take the game too seriously and, when posted to Germany, a shoulder injury removed him altogether.

It was not until he moved to Topcliffe, in North Yorkshire, and found West Hartlepool on his way home to Sunderland that the late developer understood that he could make the grade in the first division.

Corporal Watson bought his way out of the REME last summer, intent on discovering a career. As is so often the way, rugby provided the answer when he moved south and he is now a trainee broker with Cantor Fitzgerald. "Everyone said I would never get on with the guys down here, but it has been the opposite," Watson said. "I haven't found any public-school approach, everyone's been really friendly. The more games I can play this season the better because my aim is really to get as far as I can next season."

Best is convinced that he can go higher. So is Dick Greenwood, who coached England ten years ago and now manages the North's divisional team. Greenwood was convinced by Watson's display for the divisional team that toured South Africa last summer and, if Watson himself can demonstrate qualities of self-control that have not always been apparent on the rugby field, then England's impressive pool of back-row talent may yet grow by one.

Lewis has lead but with more rain to follow

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN NEW ORLEANS

INTO every life a little rain must fall. There are those who think that anyone lucky enough to spend a week in New Orleans deserves to suffer the occasional shower, but enough is enough. Just over five inches fell on Wednesday and another bucketful tumbled out of leaden skies on Thursday night and yesterday morning. The Mississippi river was weeping.

A road that wends this way and that from the centre of the city is named after General de Gaulle, the former president of France. On these wet days his words from another occasion come to mind: "Après moi, le deluge."

The deluge delayed by five hours the start of the second day's play in the Freeport McMoRan Golf Classic at English Turn Country Club, 15 miles south of New Orleans. It has created organisational problems for tournament officials and proved frustrating for the players.

The officials have to make numerous contingency plans, which include cutting the tournament to 54 holes, playing two rounds in one day, and starting competitors from two tees in groups of threes. The only certainty is that, on Sunday evening, the caravan that is the modern-day US PGA Tour will head off in a north-easterly direction to Augusta for next week's Masters.

The players, for their part, are uncertain whether to go down to the course, whether once they are there to have another cup of coffee or try and practise their putting or go and hit some balls on the driving range or even to return to their hotels. In short, it is as difficult for them as it is for everyone else.

The lead after the first round is held by John L. Lewis with a 64. Lewis was in the last group of the day and he played the round of his life, starting with three successive birdies. Later, he gathered five more and had no bogeys to claim the lead in a tournament for the first time. Lewis comes from the exotic-sounding Texas town of Round Rock, where he was once the professional at the Forest Creek Country Club. Inevitably, with initials such as his, he is nicknamed Jerry Lee.

The nickname of Brad Bryant, whose 65 puts him in second place, is Dr Dirt because of his dishevelled appearance, which is heightened by the presence of a straggly moustache that not only covers his top lip but creeps down the side of his mouth, too.

Bryant's trousers always look as though they are a couple of inches too long, and sometimes his shirt hangs out of his trousers. Appearances are deceptive. He is a charming fellow who played with Sandy Lyle in Lyle's first competitive round in the United States in 1981.

Lyle's 69 on Thursday was his best in the US this year. It was the best of the small contingent from Britain and Ireland. David Feherty had a 70, as did Ian Woosnam, and José Maria Olázabal had a 73.

The heroes this week have been the greenkeepers. They worked through the night on Wednesday — eight of them doing nothing but empty English Turn's 90 bunkers — to get the course ready for the first round, and they have barely stopped since. Nor are they likely to.

Play did start at the rear-ranged time yesterday morning, but the skies were grey and more rain was in the air. The National Weather Service, a body that appears to be considerably more accurate with its forecasting than any similar organisation in Britain, forecasts an 80 per cent chance of more showers and thunderstorms.

SCORES

LEADING FIRST-ROUND SCORES (US unless stated) 64: J Lewis 66: B Bryant. 66: K Triplett, M Hemer, R Black. 67: W Mayfair, D Duval, D Barr (Can), D Pooley 68: M Reid, D Tewell, B Claar, G Waite (NZ), S Simpson, W Austin, J Williamson, R Cochran, M Bradley, D Love III, M Wurtz

Other scores: 69: A Lyle (GB), 70: W Grady (Aus), D Feherty (GB), I Woosnam (GB) 71: B Ogle (Aus), C Parry (Aus), J Pamevik (Swe), R Allenby (Aus), K Murota (Japan), J Ozaki (Japan). 73: J M Olazábal (Sp) 74: D Frost (SA)

Wales pick three for the future

BY DAVID HANDS

THREE of the most promising young players in Wales were enrolled yesterday into a development scheme launched by the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) — Elite Rygbi Cymru 2000. As its name suggests, the scheme is aimed at the new millennium, but it would be no surprise if at least two of the trio found themselves in the party that travels to South Africa next month for the 1995 Rugby World Cup.

Much depends upon the new national management team that will replace Robert Norster, Alan Davies and Gareth Jenkins, and which the WRU debated last night. But Spencer John, the Llanelli prop, has already won two full caps this season and will clearly be close to the squad; he was joined as one of the three recipients by Justin Thomas, the Cardiff Institute of Higher Education full back, and Gareth Thomas, the Bridgend centre or wing.

They have been selected after a season during which, while the hopes of Wales's senior side have nosedived, constant assessment has been made of 24 young players whom a panel headed by the former national coach, John Ryan, believes have the potential to become world-class.

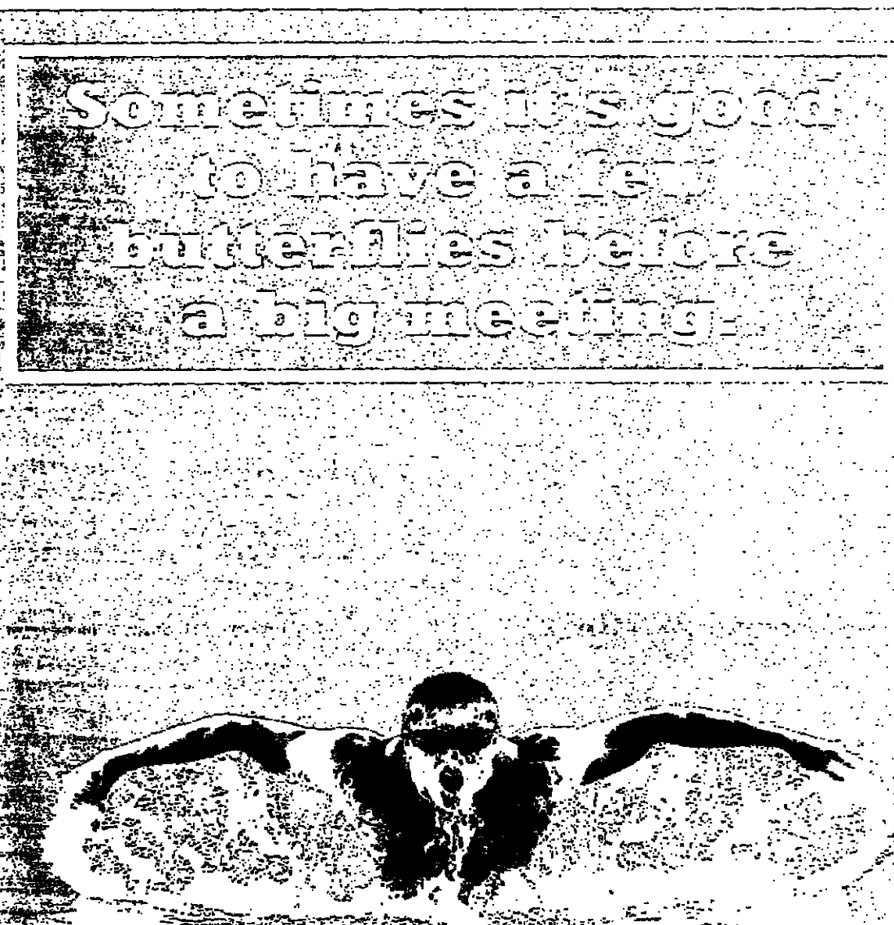
"The problem is not a lack of talent but of maintaining the development of those talented youngsters to produce a successful Welsh team," Ryan said. It is likely that, even if they are not selected for the squad, the three players will be taken to South Africa to train with their seniors.

They are also candidates for the series of sevens tournaments that the WRU has elected to take part in for development purposes. The first is the Tokyo sevens later this month, when the Welsh players will get the chance to hone their individual skills in an uncluttered arena while adjusting to the demands of foreign travel and conditions.

"The players accepted in the elite system — and, by definition, there will not be that many — will be offered expert advice on the development of their skills and fitness," Ryan said. "They will also be given the opportunity of professional advice and counselling in their career and educational opportunities. Each will be assessed individually and given whatever he needs to reach the highest standards."

As well as the elite scheme, sponsored by Midland Bank, the WRU announced the first recruit to its 66 Club, designed to discover players of 6ft 6in or over. Alun Bevan, from Dunvant, is 6ft 11in — taller than Cardiff's Derwyn Jones or Northampton's Martin Bayfield — and is only 18. Last Sunday, moreover, Wales were able to include Neil Watkins, of Pencoed, a lock of 6ft 8in in the colts international against England, which suggests that Wales will be able to field some formidable packs in due course.

Sometimes it's good to have a few butterflies before a big meeting



POSTHOUSE

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Portland 105 New Jersey 103, Dallas 125 Charlotte 107, Atlanta 109 Golden State 80; Chicago 100 Boston 82; Houston 108 LA Clippers 96, Phoenix 113 Sacramento 96.

BOWLS

OGWR: CIS Welsh indoor fours championship: Quarter-finals: Merthyr Tydfil (R Price) bt Newport (I Slade) 18-17; Port Talbot (B Powell) bt Tonfanau (H Jenkins) 24-19; Swansea (R John) bt Radnorshire (R Wasle) 16-17; Cardiff (P Rowlands) bt Llanelli (D Kingdom) 21-17.

CRICKET

BOMBAY: Bombay 690-6 dec (S V Manjrekar 224, S R Tendulkar 140, S Dighe 137, V Kambli 107 not out; S Sharma 4-155) and 513-6 dec (Tendulkar 139, S Bahutule 103 not out, A Mazumdar 88, Kambli 84). Punjab 372 (V Rathore 177, N S Sidhu 108) and 141-2 (P Dharmani 65 not out, A Mehra 60 not out). Match drawn. Bombay win Ranji Trophy.

FOOTBALL

Thursday's late results

UNIBOND NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: First division: Ashton 3 Warrington 1.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Rushden and Diamonds 6 Gravesend and Northfleet 2. Midland division: Buckingham Town 1 Weston 1.

DIADORA LEAGUE: Second division: Aveley 1 Hungerford 3; Hemel Hempstead 0 Basingstoke 5.

ALLBRIGHT BITTER WELSH CUP: Semi-final: First leg: Wrexham 3 Merthyr 1.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Blackburn 1 Tranmere 1; Stoke 0 Bolton 1.

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES: First division: Trafford 8 Bacup 0

DIADORA FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final: Second leg: Marlow 2 Aylesbury 2.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple 1 Tiverton 0.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Felixstowe 0 Great Yarmouth 1.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Thatcham 2 Ryde Sports 1.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Presidents' cup: Semi-final: Second leg: Spennymoor 2 Lancaster 1.

UNIBOND LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP: Semi-final: Second leg: Chorley 2 Bamber Bridge 0.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Ramsgate 1 Beckenham 1.

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Brazil 1 Honduras 1 (in Rio de Janeiro); Chile 2 Mexico 1 (in Los Angeles).

GOLF

NAIROBI: Windsor Senior Masters: Second round scores (GB and Ireland unless stated): 136: A Garrido (Sp) 68, 68. 137: B Huggett 70, 67; T Horton 71, 66; D Creamer 66, 71. 138: B Waites 68, 71. 140: J Morgan 70, 70; D Jimenez (US) 70, 70; A Croce (It) 70, 70. 141: G Gray 71, 70. 142: M Murphy 73, 69; H Inggs (SA) 72, 70.

HOCKEY

HOBART: Women's four nations' tournament: Australia 3 China 2; South Africa 1 New Zealand 1.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo 7 Ottawa 0; Detroit 3 Dallas 2; Boston 3 New York Islanders 2; Quebec 5 New York Rangers 4; New Jersey 4 Philadelphia 3; Anaheim 3 Winnipeg 1.

MOTORCYCLING

SHAH ALAM: Malaysian GP: First official practice: 500cc: 1, M Doohan (Aus, Honda) 1min 25.059sec; 2, L Cecialora (It, Yamaha) 1:25.142; 3, A Crivillé (Sp, Honda) 1:25.357; 4, D Beattie (US, Suzuki) 1:25.146; 5, A Puig (Sp, Honda) 1:26.290; 6, L Capirossi (It, Honda) 1:26.590; 7, K Schwantz (US, Suzuki) 1:26.610; 8, S Itoh (Japan, Honda) 1:26.641; 9, L Reggiani (It, Aprilia) 1:27.119; 10, N Abe (Japan, Yamaha) 1:27.154. 250cc: 1, M Biaggi (It, Aprilia) 1: 27.033; 2, Okada (Japan, Honda) 1:27.483; 3, R Waldmann (Ger, Honda) 1:27.477. 125cc: 1, K Sakata (Japan, Aprilia) 1:31.911; 2, H Aoki (Japan, Honda) 1:32.091; 3, D Raudies (Ger, Honda) 1:32.318.

RUGBY FIVES

ST PAUL'S: National schools championships: Open: Singles: Semi-finals: B Thomes (St Paul's) bt P Campbell (St Dunstan's) 11-1, 11-8; T Stock (St Dunstan's) bt J Mobill (Bradfield) 11-6, 11-9. Final: Stock bt Thomes 11-7 11-6. Doubles: Semi-finals: Bradfield 1 bt St Dunstan's 1 12-10, 11-9; St Paul's 1 bt Sedbergh 1 11-1, 11-3. Final: St Paul's bt Bradfield 11-3, 12-10. Colts: Singles: R Holland (Bradfield) bt J Lofthouse (Sedbergh) 11-9 11-4. Doubles: St Paul's 1 bt Malvern 11-8 11-4.

RUGBY UNION

WELLINGTON: Super Ten (Pool B): Auckland 37 Tonga 25.

TOUR MATCH: Queensland 54 Natal 14.

SKIING

TIGNES: British national championships: Giant slalom: Men: 1, A Baxter (Aviemore/Hanson & Robertson British FIS Team) 1min 56.58sec (59.21 and 57.35); 2, M Bell (Montelle/British Men's World Cup Team) 1:58.56 (59.21 and 57.35); 3, J Ormond (Grand Bomend/British Men's Europa Cup Team) 1:58.81 (59.89 and 58.82); 4, T Fawke (Reading/Hanson & Robertson British FIS Team) 1:59.53 (1:00.90 and 58.63); 5, O Hall (Kent) 2:00.42 (1:01.69 and 59.76); 6, A Freshwater (Kingussie) 2:00.52 (1:01.41 and 59.11). Women: 1, S Ormond (Grand Bomend/GBR) 2:08.94 (1:03.06 and 1:00.91); 2, K Moms (York/Hanson & Robertson British FIS Team) 2:05.19 (1:03.48 and 1:01.76); 3, K McGibbon (Glasgow/FPMG Scottish Team) 2:05.74 (1:03.76 and 1:01.98); 4, M Adam (Stirling University/Hanson and Robertson British FIS Team) 2:07.95 (1:05.46 and 1:02.49). Super G: Men: 1, G Bell 1:20.83; 2, M Bell 1:21.31; 3, Baxter 1:23.11; 4, M Reilly (Perth/Hanson and Robertson British Men's FIS Team) 1:23.63; 5, J Ormond no time, 6, Hall 1:24.51. Women: 1, E Carrick-Anderson (Dunblane/British Womens World Cup Team) 1:26.91, 2, Moms 1:27.48; 3, S Robertson (Aberdeen/Hanson and Robertson British Women's Europa Cup Team) 1:27.61; 4, L McKenn (Aviemore/Hanson and Robertson British Women's Europa Cup Team) 1:27.68; 5, S Wilson (Glasgow/Hanson and Robertson British Women's Europa Cup Team) 1:27.75

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: Ipswich 48 Cradley Heath 47

TENNIS

DAVIS CUP: World Group quarter-finals: Palermo: United States lead Italy 1-0 (A Agassi bt A Gaudenzi 6-4, 6-4, 6-1; second singles, R Furlan v P Sampras postponed because of rain). Utrecht: Holland and Germany level at 1-1 (P Haarhuis bt B Becker 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 7-6; R Krajicek lost to M Stich 6-3, 4-5, 4-5, 4-5). Moscow: Russia and South Africa level at 1-1 (Y Kafelnikov bt M Cincirusks 6-1, 6-4, 6-4; A Volkov lost to W Ferreira 6-7, 6-4, 7-6, 2-6, 4-6). Vaxjo: Sweden lead Austria 1-0 (M Larsson bt T Muster 6-1, 7-6, 7-5).

Asia-Oceania Zone: Second round: New Zealand lead S Korea 2-0; Japan lead Hong Kong 2-0, India lead Philippines 2-0; China lead Thailand 2-0; Uzbekistan lead Sri Lanka 2-0; Pakistan lead Malaysia 1-0; Indonesia lead Taiwan 1-0.

Euro-Africa Zone: Morocco lead Romania 2-0, Zimbabwe lead Slovenia 2-0

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina: Women's tournament (US unless stated): Third round: A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt A Coetzer (SA) 7-6, 3-6, 6-3; I Majoli (Cro) bt I Spirlea (Rom) 6-1, 6-4; L Ghirardi (Fra) bt S Pitkowski (Fra) 6-4, 2-6, 6-4; S Farina (It) bt P Schwarz-Rater (Aut) 6-2, 6-0. C Martinez (Sp) bt K Boogert (Holl) 6-2, 7-5. N Zvereva (Belo) bt S Cacic (US) 7-5, 7-5; M Maleeva (Bul) bt C Rubin (US) 6-3, 6-2; L Neiland (Latvia) bt G Helgeson-Nelsen (US) 8-1, 5-7, 7-6.

YACHTING

SAN DIEGO: America's Cup: Louis Vuitton Cup (Challenger semi-finals): one Australia (J Bertrand) bt Team New Zealand (P Blake, did not start); Tag Heuer Challenge (C Dickson) bt Nippon '95 (M Nambu) by 55sec. Positions: 1, Team New Zealand 9 pts; 2, one Australia 8, 3, Tag Heuer Challenge 5; 4, Nippon '95 0. Citizen Cup (Defender semis): Young America (K Mahaney) bt Stars & Stripes (D Conner) by 44 sec. Positions: 1, Young America 6; 2, Stars & Stripes 3; 3, America 2.

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Jones-trained handicapper belatedly finds his niche

Canovas Heart to speed home

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

FEW horses make bigger fools of people than would-be sprinters. Remember Ajdal who ran in the 2,000 Guineas and the Derby before turning out to be champion sprinter of 1987? And then there was Dayjur, considered a potential miler before stepping back in distance to become the fastest horse this decade. Even Lochsong was campaigned over seven furlongs before showing she had few peers over the minimum trip.

Canovas Heart, who runs at Warwick today, may never come close to emulating such a celebrated trio but the story behind his late conversion to sprinting — and the potential betting opportunity for punters — is just as remarkable.

Not sold until he was four, because of recession-affected prices at the sales, the son of Balidar finally made his racecourse debut on the all-weather in November 1993 at Southwell over a mile and a quarter. He cut little ice then or in three subsequent starts, including two efforts over 11 furlongs. Bob Jones, his trainer, was even advised to send him hurdling. "He didn't take to it."

It was only when Jones used Canovas Heart as a lead horse for his two-year-olds at his base near Newmarket that the speed of the animal became apparent. Last autumn at Brighton, he was tried over seven furlongs for the first time and ran his best race, finishing third.

"George Duffield rode him that day and said the horse needed a stiff six furlongs, but all we could find was a race over Warwick's easy five furlongs. So we went there and he bolted up," Jones added.

What made his success at Warwick last October particularly noteworthy was the fast time he recorded. It was exceptional for a horse rated so low in the handicap. Jones has never doubted that Canovas Heart was a decent horse and now that his true vocation has been discovered he can reward the trainer's faith in the Perchcourt Stainless Steel Handicap (4.25).

David Loder is unlikely to maintain his existing 75 per cent strike rate this season for long but it will be no surprise if El Supremo obliges in the April Fools Handicap (2.50), also at Warwick. A good third to Eltish and Juyush on only his second run, the Storm Bird colt then beat a big field at Nottingham in a decent time. He was found to be a sick horse after disappointing in his final race at Doncaster and that run can be safely ignored.

El Supremo has been working well enough at home for a horse who shows little on the gallops and should be supported.

With the Martell Grand National only a week away, Corals yesterday decided to field against Master Oats, the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, and pushed him out a point to 11-2. "The Aintree going is likely to be good and we don't think it will suit Master Oats," Rob Hartnett, the bookmaker's spokesman, said.

Chatam, one of six potential Martin Pipe-trained runners, was cut to 20-1 by Ladbrokes and 25-1 by William Hill after rumours that Adrian Maguire had been booked to ride, but Dave Roberts, the jockey's agent, said yesterday: "Adrian Maguire has no booked ride in the Grand National."

Mr Boston will miss the race after failing to recover in time from a freak injury which caused Mary Reveley's chaser to be withdrawn at the start of the Midlands National at Uttoxeter two weeks ago.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: CANOVAS HEART
(4.25 Warwick)
Next best: El Supremo
(2.50 Warwick)

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Cab On Target (left) will find conditions to his liking in the long distance hurdle at Ascot today

Alderbrook raids Longchamp

ALDERBROOK, the champion hurdler, reverts to Flat racing at Longchamp tomorrow when he faces nine rivals in the group two £35,928 Prix d'Harcourt over ten furlongs (Our French Racing Correspondent writes). Paul Eddery rides Julie Cecil's charge, who won the group two Prix Dollar over a slightly shorter trip here last October.

The only other British raider is the 1993 Italian 2,000 Guineas winner, Pelder. After a loss of form, he was taken away from his Italian trainer, Luciano d'Auria, and has joined Paul Kelleway in Newmarket.

The home team is led by Millkom, who won his first ten races but ended last term with defeats in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and the Breeders' Cup Turf.

☐ Clive Brittain's Ionio (Basil Marcus) contests the £191,736 Queen Elizabeth II Cup (1m 3f) at Sha Tin, Hong Kong, today.

Gifford to increase tally with double

ASCOT
BBC1

1.30: With Josh Gifford's horses running so well, **Major Summit** must be the choice. Successful on his debut at Kempton in November when he had a stream of subsequent winners behind him, the Callernish gelding arguably showed improved form when third to Silver Wedge and Callisoe Bay at Sandown in January.

Although slightly below his best on heavy ground at the same track six weeks ago, he travelled well for a long way before finishing third to Killone Abbot (won on Thursday). He should appreciate today's longer trip and better ground. Even Flow's best form is on soft ground but he has plenty of pace and may have struck the front too soon in Bear Claw's race at Cheltenham.

2.05: This is a disappointing turn-out for a £12,000-added race which looks at the mercy of **Spuffington**. Although Josh Gifford's novice has won his last two races on heavy ground, he is possibly more effective on better going and this sound jumper should appreciate today's conditions. Bo Knows Best boasted better hurdles form but has not been seen since jumping poorly in a grade one race at Sandown eight weeks ago.

3.50: Sweet Glow, a course and distance winner four times including when taking this race last year, has been disappointing this season, particularly at Cheltenham last time when pulled up in the Stayers' Hurdle. It would be no surprise to see him bounce back to form on his favourite track, but **Cab On Target** is preferred. Mary Reveley's runner was probably unsuited by the shorter trip and soft ground at Cheltenham a fortnight ago. Bokaro looks best of the remainder.

RICHARD EVANS

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

WARWICK

THUNDERER
1.50 Eagle Day. 2.20 Battle Colours. 2.50 Daffaq. 3.20 Ketabi. 3.55 Absalom's Pillar. 4.25 Canovas Heart. 4.55 Solo Symphony.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.20 Blockade. 2.50 MISTER FIRE EYES (nap). 3.55 Lookingforarainbow.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — SIS
DRAW: 5F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.50 CHILDISH PRANK MAIDEN STAKES
(£4,273: 5f) (17 runners)

101 (16) 63-0 EAGLE DAY 8 (V) D Elsworth 4-9-7 ... Pat Eddery 89
102 (7) 3-24 SOUTH FOREST 36 S Bowring 4-9-7 ... C Teague (7) 82
103 (11) 34-0 SWIFT NICK NEVISON 51 K Ivory 4-9-7 ... C Scally (7) –
104 (5) 2- COASTAL BLUFF 269 T Barron 3-8-9 ... J Fortune 80
105 (14) 0- EXPRESS ROUTING 294 R Akehurst 3-8-9 ... A Clark –
106 (10) GENERAL SIR PETER P Cole 3-8-9 ... T Quinn –
107 (6) 450- HONEY TRADER 208 J Berry 3-8-9 ... J Carroll 62
108 (17) 0 MAYBANK 7 B McMahon 3-8-9 ... M Wigham –
109 (4) 00- PORT AUGUSTA 148 B Hills 3-8-9 ... J D Smith (5) –
110 (9) 656- SCHARNHORST 145 S Dow 3-8-9 ... A Daly (7) 66
111 (12) 3230 SUPERBIT 42 B McMahon 3-8-9 ... S Sanders (3) 61
112 (1) 42-5 TAYLORD 7 R Hannon 3-8-9 ... L Dettori 90
113 (15) 00- VINTAGE TAITTINGER 322 M Bell 3-8-9 ... R Mullen (7) –
114 (2) 0- LORELEI LEE 279 John Berry 3-8-4 ... G Faulkner (7) –
115 (8) NAME THAT TUNE C Hill 3-8-4 ... J Quinn –
116 (3) 65-0 POLLI PUI 12 P Evans 3-8-4 ... D Holland 78
117 (13) 0- SECRET MISS 163 A Jarvis 3-8-4 ... B Hunter (7) –

9-2 Eagle Day, 5-1 General Sir Peter, 6-1 Scharnhorst, Port Augusta, 7-1 others.

2.20 YOU'VE BEEN HAD CLAIMING STAKES
(£3,158: 1m) (17)

201 (12) 2-04 SUPERCOOL 56 B McMahon 4-9-3 ... S Sanders (3) 89
202 (7) THE MERRY MONK C Allen 4-9-3 ... T Ives –
203 (14) 112- BLOCKADE 220 (D,F,G,S) M Bell 6-8-13 ... M Fenton 94
204 (15) 550/ KIMBERLEY BOY 120J (S) G Oldroyd 5-8-13 ... D Holland –
205 (9) 000- MONTONE 173 (F,G,S) K Burke 5-8-13 ... T Quinn 84
206 (16) 3040 NORTHERN CELADON 14 (D,G,S) M Heaton-Ellis 4-8-13 ... Stephen Davies 98
207 (2) 002- HOT THE NADGER 180 P Evans 4-8-13 ... J Weaver 77
208 (10) 030/ WESTCOAST 532 M Tate 4-8-13 ... Pat Eddery –
209 (17) 602- DUELLO 73J M Blanshard 4-8-11 ... W Ryan 87
210 (8) 2422 BATTLE COLOURS 35 (D,F,G) Mrs J Ramsden 6-8-7 ... K Fallon 89
211 (4) -000 DARAKAH 53 (D,F,G,S) C Hill 3-8-6 ... J Quinn –
212 (6) 06-0 FINJAN 56 (C,F,S) A Foster 8-8-5 ... J Fortune 89
213 (13) 0-40 NIGELSCHINAPALACE 14J Miss S Wilton 6-8-5 ... A Mackay 89
214 (5) 340- LADY LACEY 159 (D,F,G,S) G Balding 8-8-4 ... J Williams 88
215 (3) 0003 TWICE IN BUNDORAN 18 (G) P Felgate 4-8-0 ... R Price 80
216 (11) 26-0 CHLOES DIAMOND 16 (F) A James 7-7-12 ... M Henry (7) 69
217 (1) 400- MILLRIDGE 10J R Lee 4-7-12 ... F Norton 75

4-1 Battle Colours, 5-1 Blockade, Twice In Bundoran, 7-1 Supercool, 8-1 others.

2.50 APRIL FOOLS HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £9,285: 1m) (20)

301 (9) 214- LAST ROUNDUP 175 (G) C Thornton 9-7 ... Dean McKeown 82
302 (7) 212- BEAUCHAMP JAZZ 148 (D,S) J Dunlop 9-5 ... J Reid 86
303 (16) 316- EL SUPREMO 203 (F) D Loder 9-2 ... J Weaver 89
304 (1) 101- DUFFERTOES 147 (G,S) M Ryan 8-9 ... G Carter 89
305 (8) 020- KEMO SABO 147 (S) Mrs J Ramsden 8-7 ... K Fallon 94
306 (6) 036- FANTASY RACING 145 (S) M Channon 8-7 ... C Rutter 98
307 (10) 240- THALJANAH 182 A Stewart 8-6 ... K Darley 91
308 (4) 321- OUT ON A PROMISE 126 (G) G Wragg 8-6 ... M Hills 90
309 (13) 55-2 DONT FORGET CURTIS 38 J Fanshawe 8-6 ... D Harrison 87
310 (11) 331- EMIRATES EXPRESS 186 (G) J Hills 8-5 ... L Dettori 88
311 (12) 326- CABCHARGE BLUE 122 (F,S) T Naughton 8-4 ... Stephen Davies 94
312 (14) 600- CYRUS THE GREAT 189 (F) M Bell 8-4 ... M Fenton 91
313 (19) 1-11 MISTER FIRE EYES 7 (F,G,S) C Brittain 8-2 ... B Doyle 96
314 (2) 42-5 DAFFAQ 9 P Walwyn 8-2 ... W Carson 94
315 (20) 021- KING BALANT 182 (D,F) M Stoute 8-0 ... Paul Eddery 90
316 (3) 11-4 RISKY ROMEO 7 (D,G) G Bravery 7-13 ... F Norton 85
317 (17) 02-2 KOMODO 30 D Elsworth 7-10 ... D Wright (3) 97
318 (18) 4824 KOMREYEV DANCER 9 (D,G) A Bailey 7-9 ... N Adams 91
319 (15) 6-31 GREENWICH AGAIN 32 (D,F,S) T Mills 7-8 ... J Quinn 96
320 (5) 5410 MO'S MAIN MAN 41 (G) S Dow 7-7 ... S Lanigan (7) 93

9-2 Mister Fire Eyes, 7-1 King Balant, Out On A Promise, 10-1 Komodo, 12-1 Beauchamp Jazz, Dufftertoes, Risky Romeo, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Chapple-Hyam, 11 winners from 42 runners, 26.2%. G Lewis, 8 from 38, 21.1%. J Dunlop, 9 from 44, 20.5%. G Balding, 7 from 36, 19.4%. M Stoute, 5 from 26, 19.2%.

JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery, 12 winners from 46 rides, 26.1%. W Carson, 15 from 68, 22.1%. J Reid, 14 from 68, 20.6%. K Darley, 3 from 15, 20.0%. R Cochrane, 9 from 47, 19.1%. Paul Eddery, 14 from 79, 17.7%.

3.20 JOKE'S ON YOU HANDICAP
(£4,172: 1m 2f 169yd) (15)

401 (6) 000- GONE FOR A BURTON 105J (D,F,S) P Makin 5-10-0 ... Pat Eddery 94
402 (9) 20-0 FOX SPARROW 22J (CD,S) N Tinkler 5-9-7 ... K Darley 98
403 (12) 0-60 CEE-JAY-AY 8 (C,F,G,S) J Berry 8-9-6 ... J Carroll 95
404 (15) -230 FOLLY FINNESSE 45 (CD,S) B Millman 4-9-6 ... J Weaver 96
405 (14) 210- UN PARFUM DE FEMME 169 (CD,F,S) J Pearce 4-9-5 ... J McLaughlin 92
406 (5) 2260 RED VALERIAN 8 (B,C,F,G) K McAuliffe 4-9-5 ... R Cochrane 90
407 (7) 010- KETABI 189 (G) R Akehurst 4-9-3 ... T Quinn 94
408 (13) 13-0 HAZARD A GUESS 8 (D,F,G,S) Mrs J Ramsden 5-9-2 ... K Fallon 89
409 (8) 1240 BIREQUEST 7 (B,G) R Boss 4-8-12 ... L Dettori 89
410 (4) 00-0 PINK BRIEF 5 (G) M Ryan 4-8-7 ... M Baird (5) 98
411 (2) 460- MYFONTAINE 180 (CD,F,G,S) K Ivory 8-8-1 ... G Duffield 93
412 (3) 0-00 NORTHERN CHIEF 14 (F,S) R Emery 5-7-11 ... J Quinn 97
413 (10) 010- WENTBRIDGE LAD 130 (B,G,S) B McMahon 5-7-11 ... F Norton 93
414 (1) 000- KARDELLE 238J Mrs A King 5-7-11 ... A Garth (5) –
415 (11) 535- PRECIOUS WONDER 38J (S) P Butler 6-7-7 ... J Lowe 87

7-2 Hazard A Guess, 6-1 Ketabi, 8-1 Cee-Jay-Ay, Gone For A Burton, Red Valerian, 10-1 Fox Sparrow, Folly Finnesse, 12-1 Myfontaine, 14-1 others.

3.55 PRIVATE JOKE HANDICAP
(£6,193: 1m 6f 194yd) (15)

501 (5) 200- PURPLE SPLASH 147 (B,S) P Makin 5-10-0 ... M Hills 96
502 (4) 314- POLO KIT 273 (G) J Fanshawe 4-9-13 ... D Harrison 91
503 (3) 114- CHIMANIMANI 80J (C,F,G) N Tinkler 4-9-12 ... G Duffield 88
504 (2) 000- LOOKINGFORARAINBOW 147 (F,G) Bob Jones 7-9-11 ... M Wigham 89
505 (1) 302- BEAUMAN 105J (S) P Evans 5-9-8 ... S Sanders (3) 96
506 (15) 1142 NOUFARI 8 (D,G) R Hollinshead 4-9-5 ... T Ives 93
507 (7) 50-0 BRANDON PRINCE 8 (D,F,G,S) I Balding 7-9-5 ... L Dettori 94
508 (11) 0-41 SECRET SERENADE 40J (F,G) C Fairhurst 4-9-3 ... R Cochrane 98
509 (9) 436- PHIL'S TIME 222 (B) T Mills 4-9-3 ... J Reid 95
510 (8) 50-6 WANNAPLANTATREE 59 G Yardley 4-8-12 ... A Clark 97
511 (6) 14- SMUGGLING 178 (F) R Akehurst 4-8-9 ... T Quinn 92
512 (13) 510- LALINDI 56J (G) D Elsworth 4-8-9 ... Pat Eddery 98
513 (12) 500- BANDAR PERAK 228 (S) M Haynes 4-8-8 ... J Weaver 91
514 (10) 06-2 SIR THOMAS BEECHAM 88 (C,F,G) S Dow 5-8-7 ... A Daly (7) 94
515 (14) 3-63 ABSALOM'S PILLAR 50 (G,S) J Hetherton 5-8-2 ... N Kennedy 89

6-1 Smuggling, 7-1 Noufari, Sir Thomas Beecham, 8-1 Chimanimani, Beauman, Secret Serenade, 10-1 others.

4.25 PERCHCOURT STAINLESS STEEL HANDICAP
(£3,787: 5f) (20)

601 (13) 400- DOMICKSKY 140 (D,F,G,S) M Channon 7-10-0 ... R Hughes 93
602 (9) 216- PATSY GRIMES 189 (D,G,S) L Holt 5-9-13 ... J Reid 89
603 (3) 052- BROADSTAIRS BEAUTY 136 (B,D,G,S) S Bowring 5-9-7 ... S D Williams 94
604 (12) 000- PETRACO 105J (C,D,G,S) N Smith 7-9-5 ... G Mitchell (7) 95
605 (5) 426- FOLLOWMEGIRLS 173 (D,F,G) Mrs A King 6-9-5 ... L Dettori 90
606 (1) 100- THE FED 158 (D,F,S) R Whitaker 5-9-4 ... A Culhane 91
607 (6) 00-1 THEROS 5 (G) R Hannon 3-9-4 (7ex) ... T Quinn 89
608 (17) 550- MOST UPPITTY 196 (D,F) J Berry 3-8-11 ... J Carroll 91
609 (8) 031- CANOVAS HEART 180 (CD,S) Bob Jones 5-8-11 ... G Duffield 93
610 (16) 2023 DISTANT DYNASTY 18 (D,G,S) B Pearce 5-8-9 ... Pat Eddery 90
611 (10) 000- GREY CHARMER 158 (F,G,S) C James 6-8-8 ... W Newnes 94
612 (11) 500- BRIGHT PARAGON 194 (CD,F,G,S) H Collingridge 6-8-8 ... M Fenton 90
613 (7) 400- HONG KONG DOLLAR 198 B Meehan 3-8-6 ... B Doyle 89
614 (2) 335- ABIGAILS BOY 187 (S) J Scargill 6-8-1 ... D Wright (3) 87
615 (14) 000- THE KINGS RANSOM 178 Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-1 ... D Harrison –
616 (15) 4-06 LIFE'S A BREEZE 47 (D,G) P Felgate 6-8-1 ... A Mackay –
617 (4) 00-0 GRAND TIME 52 (B,D,F,G,S) C Hill 6-7-7 ... J Quinn 85
618 (10) -040 BATON BLEU 16 P Howling 4-7-7 ... J Lowe 83
619 (16) 6263 IVY LILIAN 12 W Brisbourne 3-7-7 ... S Lanigan (7) 94
620 (19) 3560 MATTHEW DAVID 12 (B,D,G) S Bowring 5-7-7 ... N Kennedy 96

6-1 Theros, 7-1 Followmegirls, 8-1 Patsy Grimes, Canovas Heart, 10-1 The Fed, Distant Dynasty, 12-1 others.

4.55 LAST LAUGH MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES
(2-Y-O fillies: £3,529: 5f) (13)

1 (12) ALISTOVER R Dutton 8-11 ... T Quinn –
2 (4) APARTMENTS ABROAD K McAuliffe 8-11 ... R Cochrane –
3 (2) 3 DON'T TELL VICKI B J Moore 8-11 ... J Weaver –
4 (6) JUST LADY W G M Turner 8-11 ... G Duffield –
5 (3) KANDAVU M McCormack 8-11 ... A Clark –
6 (1) LUSSURIA B Meehan 8-11 ... B Doyle –
7 (13) MAGIC BIRD J Spearing 8-11 ... K Darley –
8 (8) MISS BIGWIG J Berry 8-11 ... J Carroll –
9 (5) MISS WATERLINE P Evans 8-11 ... L Dettori –
10 (3) 4 POLY STATIC B M Channon 8-11 ... R Hughes –
11 (8) RHUMBA DANCER R Hannon 8-11 ... Pat Eddery –
12 (5) SOLO SYMPHONY P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 ... J Reid –
13 (7) ZUNO PRINCESS G Lewis 8-11 ... Paul Eddery –

7-4 Solo Symphony, 5-2 Miss Bigwig, 5-1 Rhumba Dancer, 7-1 Poly Static, 8-1 Don't Tell Vicki, Kandavu, 10-1 Zuno Princess, 12-1 others.

SEDGEFIELD

THUNDERER
1.55 Farmer's Cross. 2.25 Livio. 2.55 Million In Mind. 3.25 Son Of Iris. 4.00 Uron V. 4.30 Political Tower. 5.50 Go-Informal. 5.30 Chopwell Curtains.

GOING: GOOD — SIS

1.55 EDEN ARMS SWALLOW HOTEL CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,346: 3m 3f 110yd) (13 runners)

1 6UP0 RUSTINO 33 (G,S) W Cunningham 9-12-0 ... W Fry
2 -FP3 JOHNS THE BOY 35 (G) N Mason 9-11-10 ... J Supple
3 504P LION OF VIENNA 18 (S) T Carr 8-11-8 ... J Burke
4 1023 FARMER'S CROSS 22 (C,G,S) P Beaumont 11-11-8 ... B Grattan
5 4P-0 TRES AMIGOS 33 (C,F,S) J Johnson 8-11-7 ... A Larnach
6 /00 KNAYTON PROSPECT 54 (F) M W Easterby 7-11-4 ... J Driscoll
7 3651 KIR 18 (B,CD,F,G) V Thompson 7-11-3 ... B Harding
8 4F6P GLANDALANE LADY 18 (F,G) J J O'Neill 6-11-2 ... R McGrath
9 2001 MANWELL 16 (C,S) B Tennis 9-11-2 ... E Callaghan
10 2000 THARSIS 17 (B,F,G) W Smith 10-10-11 ... S Taylor
11 -630 DOCTOR DUNKLIN 116 (C,F) Mrs V Ward 6-10-3 ... G Hogan
12 4336 GERMAN LEGEND 16 D Lamb 5-10-0 ... G Cahill
13 6000 SPEEDY SIOUX 40 (B,G) S Chadwick 6-10-0 ... T Eley

7-2 Farmer's Cross, 9-2 Kir, 5-1 Manwell, 7-1 Johns The Boy, Glandalane Lady, 8-1 Knayton Prospect, 10-1 German Legend, 12-1 others.

2.25 GRANT THORNTON BUSINESS ADVISERS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,565: 2m 5f 110yd) (18)

1 0532 BIAD 17 (D,S) J Wrnie 5-11-6 ... J Railton
2 1330 KEEP YOUR DISTANCE 113 (G) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-6 ... G Lee (5)
3 -40P BLASTER BINS 53 (F) J Johnson 7-11-0 ... Richard Guest
4 20- BOWLANDS LAW 303 J Eyre 6-11-0 ... D Pears
5 2-33 DOWN THE FELL 35 J Johnson 6-11-0 ... N Doughty
6 GALLANT OATS 335P M Barnes 7-11-0 ... G Cahill (7)
7 /P6- GOLDSMITH 565 W Tinning 7-11-0 ... S Turner
8 000P KITTOCHSIDE LAD 54 Mrs S Austin 5-11-0 ... D Wilkinson
9 0442 OLD HABITS 33 J Eyre 6-11-0 ... A Dobbin
10 0000 PREMIER FIRST 12 J Hellens 6-11-0 ... A Larnach (3)
11 6-P0 SEAHAWK RETRIEVER 35 Jimmy Fitzgerald 6-11-0 ... M Dwyer
12 0 SUNDAY'S MAN 21 B Rothwell 5-11-0 ... J Supple (5)
13 21F0 LIVIO 8 (CD,S) L Lungo 4-10-13 ... F Perratt (3)
14 400 GOLD PIGEON 3 S Rothwell 6-10-9 ... R Supple
15 0605 KAREN'S LADY LUCK 18 M Hammond 5-10-9 ... D Bentley
16 00- MY LISA TOO 406 N Bycroft 5-10-9 ... D Byrne
17 P0 ROMANY SMITH 11 A L Blood 9-10-9 ... Mr A Manners (7)
18 0240 SIERRA MADRONA 40 Mrs A Swinbank 5-10-9 ... J K McCarthy (5)

5-2 Livio, 7-2 Biad, 4-1 Keep Your Distance, 9-1 Down The Fell, Old Habits, 12-1 Seahawk Retriever, 14-1 Sierra Madrona, 16-1 others.

2.55 PENSHER SECURITY DOORS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,906: 2m 1f 110yd) (9)

1 -F06 ASLAN 15 (S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-12-0 ... M Dwyer
2 1020 NATIVE WORTH 17 (G,S) J Johnson 5-11-11 ... A Dobbin
3 -314 GYMCRAK SOVEREIGN 105 (D,BF,G,S) G Holmes 7-11-3 ... N Doughty
4 00P5 WHO'S TEF 14 (CD,F) M H Easterby 7-10-11 ... R Garritty
5 1100 MILLION IN MIND 119 (F) J White 6-10-8 ... J Railton
6 0-38 SRIVIJAYA 35 (F,G) Mrs M Reveley 8-10-7 ... R Hodge
7 0245 MARSH'S LAW 59 (V,D,F,G,S) D Brennan 8-10-7 ... M Brennan
8 3212 SYLVAN SABRE 143 (F,G) F Morgan 6-10-5 ... A S Smith
9 3323 SHAHGRAM 17 (CD,S) P Beaumont 7-10-0 ... R Supple

5-2 Native Worth, 4-1 Million In Mind, 9-2 Sylvan Sabre, 6-1 Srivijaya, 7-1 Aslan, Marsh's Law, 12-1 others.

3.25 McEWAN'S DURHAM NATIONAL
(Handicap chase: £5,665: 3m 3f) (13)

1 5133 MONKEY AGO 14 (G,S) Mrs S Bramall 8-11-12 ... Mr D Parker (5)
2 5580 CATCH THE CROSS 15 (V,F,G,S) A Morgan 9-11-2 ... A S Smith
3 3100 CHOCTAW 11 (CD,F,G,S) P Beaumont 11-10-8 ... C Hawkins
4 P11F SON OF IRIS 35 (C,BF,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-6 ... M Dwyer
5 431P CELIDH BOY 8 (B,F,G,S) Mrs J Goodfellow 9-10-6 ... Richard Guest
6 2315 PRINCE YAZA 23 (CD,F,G,S) J Curtis 8-10-1 ... L O'Hara
7 55R6 CELTIC SONG 8 (D,G,S) W Reed 8-10-0 ... Mr C Bonner (5)
8 1/8 BUCK OWENS 33 (CD,F) J Johnson 10-10-0 ... J F Titley
9 5225 CAROUSEL ROCKET 11 (F,G,S) M Hammond 12-10-0 ... A Dobbin
10 0304 BRAVE DEFENDER 17 (C,F,G) J White 11-10-0 ... P McLoughlin (3)
11 4046 TRUELY ROYAL 16 (B,G,S) J Charlton 11-10-0 ... B Harding (5)
12 3030 BISHOPDALE 25 (F,G,S) S Chadwick 14-10-0 ... K Johnson
13 -0B4 ABSENCIER 15 (D,S) Mrs M Kendall 13-10-0 ... Mrs M Kendall

3-1 Son Of Iris, 4-1 Prince Yaza, 5-1 Celidh Boy, 6-1 Monkey-Ago, 7-1 Brave Defender, 8-1 Choctaw, 10-1 Celtic Song, 12-1 others.

4.00 INDEPENDENT INSURANCE CO. NOVICES CHASE (£2,997: 3m 3f) (12)

1 2F21 TWIN STATES 14 (F,S) J Turner 6-11-9 ... W Fry (5)
2 1215 FORTUNE'S GIRL 112 (BF,F,G) M Hammond 7-11-4 ... A Dobbin
3 P6- ARTHUR TOWLER 390P J Johnson 6-11-2 ... N Doughty
4 0030 BUSY BOY 18 D Lamb 8-11-2 ... Mr A Manners (7)
5 0033 GRIFFINS BAR 15 Mrs P Sly 7-11-2 ... R Marley
6 83PU KHOJOHN 18 (F,G,S) Mrs V Aconley 7-11-2 ... D Byrne
7 /PU MR GLEN 53 (F) N Mason 10-11-2 ... R Supple
8 U113 URON V 14 (F,S) (BF) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-2 ... M Dwyer
9 5P0P WAYWARD EDWARD 15 (B) Mrs S Lamyman 9-11-2 ... R Davis
10 4303 ESTABLISH 14 J Dodds 7-10-11 ... G Cahill (7)
11 P/P- NICKY'S BELLE 387 Lady Ann Bowlby 10-10-11 ... G Harker
12 P-0 SKYVAL 18 L Lloyd-James 5-10-2 ... G Hogan (5)

6-4 Uron V, 3-1 Twin States, 7-2 Fortune's Girl, 8-1 Khojohn, 10-1 Griffins Bar, 12-1 Establish, 16-1 Busy Boy, 20-1 others.

4.30 APRIL FOOL HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,444: 2m 1f) (8)

1 633- MEGA BLUE 385 (D,F,G,S) Mrs V Aconley 10-12-0 ... D Byrne
2 3FP5 BORO SMACKEROO 18 (CD,F,G,S) J Johnson 10-11-12 ... N Doughty
3 4022 POLITICAL TOWER 14 (G,S) M Barnes 8-11-7 ... A Dobbin
4 2521 BELDINE 26 (D,F,G,S) P Monteith 10-11-4 ... G Cahill (7)
5 3034 TRESIDDER 14 (B,CD,F,G,S) M W Easterby 13-10-11 ... R Garritty
6 332P BOSTON ROVER 15 (D,F,G,S) D Brennan 10-10-9 ... M Brennan
7 2552 BLAZING DAWN 16 (G,S) V Thompson 8-10-0 ... D Wilkinson
8 5125 ANOTHER RED 12 (S) W Raw 7-10-0 ... G Hogan (5)

5-2 Beldine, 7-2 Boston Rover, Political Tower, 6-1 Boro Smackeroo, 7-1 Blazing Dawn, 8-1 Tresidder, 12-1 others.

5.05 TRIPLEPRINT OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (Div I: £1,235: 2m 1f 110yd) (14)

1 121 GO-INFORMAL 14 (F,S) J Jefferson 4-11-4 ... M Dwyer
2 14 DARK PHOENIX 26 (G) D Brennan 5-11-2 ... S O'Donnell (7)
3 0 JOINT ACCOUNT 17 R Tate 5-11-0 ... Mrs F Needham
4 5 SCOTT SKINNER 70 P Calver 5-11-0 ... S Wynne (3)
5 0 SILLY TINKER 5 J Hetherton 5-11-0 ... R Marley
6 SILVER PRIDE Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-0 ... E Callaghan (7)
7 0 SKIDDAW ROCK 12 Mrs M Reveley 5-11-0 ... G Lee (5)
8 05 PEACHY BEACH 18 N Mason 5-10-9 ... J Supple (5)
9 ANOTHER ISLAY C Parker 4-10-8 ... Mr D Parker (5)
10 BILLYTOBINSLAD Mrs V Aconley 4-10-8 ... J F Titley
11 COOL AS A CUCUMBER C Thornton 4-10-8 ... Mark Roberts (7)
12 0 EAU BENITE 70 W Elsey 4-10-8 ... D Byrne
13 TURKISH TOWER M Barnes 4-10-8 ... A Dobbin
14 0 WHITEGATESPRINCESS 70 J Johnson 4-10-3 ... S Taylor (7)

7-4 Go-Informal, 7-2 Dark Phoenix, 6-1 Silver Pride, 7-1 Cool As A Cucumber, 10-1 Skiddaw Rock, Scott Skinner, 20-1 Eau Benite, 25-1 others.

5.30 TRIPLEPRINT OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (Div II: £1,235: 2m 1f 110yd) (14)

1 133 GENERAL'S ORDERS 16 (S) J Norton 4-11-1 ... W Fry (5)
2 32 CHOPWELL CURTAINS 14 M H Easterby 5-11-0 ... R Garritty
3 5- ERNEST ARAGORN 310 Mrs S Lamyman 6-11-0 ... R Davis
4 4-06 GARBO'S BOY 12 J Turner 5-11-0 ... S Turner
5 LORD NICK R Barr 5-11-0 ... N Smith
6 0 MR ORIENTAL 26 Mrs V Aconley 5-11-0 ... D Byrne
7 SIR GYMCRAK G Holmes 5-11-0 ... M Dwyer
8 0 THE KHOINOA 26 Mrs A Swinbank 5-11-0 ... J Railton
9 0 TRANSCENDENTAL 60 J Quinn 5-11-0 ... E Callaghan (7)
10 03 SECOND FIDDLE 22 D Brennan 5-10-9 ... S O'Donnell (7)
11 M-I-FIVE C Thornton 4-10-8 ... Mark Roberts (7)
12 PRINCE OF SAINTS M Hammond 4-10-8 ... D Bentley
13 0 CLAREVAL 16 J Johnson 4-10-3 ... S Taylor (7)
14 00 CLOVER GIRL 53 B Ellison 4-10-3 ... D Pears

2-1 Chopwell Curtains, 3-1 General's Orders, 5-1 M-I-Five, 6-1 Prince Of Saints, 10-1 Clareval, Second Fiddle, 12-1 Transcendental, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Thornton, 8 winners from 26 runners, 30.8%. Mrs M Reveley, 72 from 235, 30.6%. Jimmy Fitzgerald, 17 from 61, 27.9%. M H Easterby, 24 from 98, 24.5%. J Hellens, 14 from 67, 20.9%.

JOCKEYS: G Lee, 7 winners from 19 rides, 36.8%. M Dwyer, 29 from 133, 21.8%. D Wilkinson, 9 from 54, 16.7%. R Hodge, 10 from 62, 16.1%. M Brennan, 3 from 19, 15.8%. R Marley, 8 from 54, 14.8%.

Point-to-point fixtures

TODAY: Belvoir, Garthorpe, 5m E of Melton Mowbray (first race 2.00). Bramham Moor, Wetherby, inside NH course (1.30). Cheshire, Alpraham, 3m SE of Tarporley (2.00). East Essex, Marks Tey, 5m W of Colchester (2.00). Grafton, Mollington, 5m N of Banbury (1.00). Harkaway Club, Chaddesley Corbett, 6m W of Bromsgrove (1.00). Monmouthshire, Llanvapley, 4m E of Abergavenny (2.00). Morpeth, Tranwell, 3m SW of Morpeth (2.00). Royal Artillery, Larkhill, 3m NW of Amesbury (1.00). Western, Wadebridge, 1m W of town (2.00). TOMORROW: Dart Vale and Haldon, Ottery St Mary, 1m SW of town (2.00). North Herefordshire, Newtown, 7m NE of Hereford (2.00). Pembrokeshire, Lydstep, 3m SW of Tenby (1.00). Sir W W Wynn's, Eaton Hall, 4m S of Chester (1.00). Southdown and Eridge, Heathfield 1m E of town (2.00).

ASCOT

THUNDERER
1.30 UNSINKABLE BOXER (nap). 2.05 Spuffington. 2.40 Arabian Bold. 3.15 Lackendara. 3.50 Cab On Target. 4.25 Cool Dawn. 5.00 Foodbroker Star.

Brian Beel: 4.25 Cool Dawn.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — SIS

1.30 GET AHEAD, GET A HORSE NOVICES HURDLE (BBC1)
(£3,778: 2m 4f) (10 runners)

1 050-113 BIMSEY 44 (BF,G,S) (A Ryan) R Akehurst 5-11-10 ... D Bridgwater 86
2 441126 EVEN FLOW 15 (D,S) (A Watson) T Casey 6-11-10 ... M A Fitzgerald 89
3 0-11P40 SHINING LIGHT 15 (G,S) (The Dealey Partnership) D Nicholson 6-11-10 ... A Maguire 77
4 133 MAJOR SUMMIT 43 (BF,G) (A Weller) J Gifford 5-11-6 ... P Hide 89
5 440-12F OATS N BARLEY 17 (G) (F Landrigan) P Rodford 5-11-6 ... S Burrough 75
6 0-60 CHARLIE BEE 21 (Mrs B Bishop) R Buckler 6-11-2 ... A Tory 53
7 0-332RF FATHER POWER 65 (P Bowling) P Hobbs 7-11-2 ... Peter Hobbs 83
8 232030 POINCIANA 28 (T Johnsey) Miss C Johnsey 6-11-2 ... L Harvey 79
9 03-2510 UNSINKABLE BOXER 18 (S) (P Green) N Walker 6-11-2 ... B Powell 88
10 40 FATHER SKY 84 (BF) (K Kozlecki) O Sherwood 4-10-9 ... J Osborne 88

BETTING: 5-2 Major Summit, 9-2 Even Flow, 5-1 Bimsey, Unsinkable Boxer, 6-1 Shining Light, 7-1 others.

1994: BUTLER'S TWITCH 7-11-7 J Osborne (7-2) O Sherwood 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

BIMSEY beat Lyme Gold 5l in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, heavy) on penultimate start. EVEN FLOW 6l 2nd to Bear Claw in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, soft) on penultimate start. MAJOR SUMMIT 11¼l 3rd of 5 to Silver Wedge in grade I Tolworth Hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, soft). UNSINKABLE BOXER 34l 11th of 20 to Tourist Attraction in grade I Supreme Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, soft). FATHER SKY 14l 4th to Silver Wedge in novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good to soft).
Selection: MAJOR SUMMIT (nap)

2.05 DAVIS LANGDON & EVEREST NOVICES CHASE (BBC1)
(£8,052: 2m 3f 110yd) (4 runners)

1 213211 SPUFFINGTON 21 (D,G,S) (J Clopet) J Gifford 7-11-12 ... P Hide 89
2 00-131P BO KNOWS BEST 58 (F,S) (D Humphreys) G L Moore 6-11-9 ... M Richards 84
3 2-84413 SUPER MALT 1 (BF,F,G,S) (F Allison) B Meehan 7-11-7 ... B Powell –
4 264/0PP- ORIEL DREAM 422 (G,S) (S Marsh) R Fisher 8-10-13 ... D Bridgwater –

BETTING: 4-6 Spuffington, 7-4 Bo Knows Best, 8-1 Super Malt, 12-1 Oriel Dream.

1994: HOPS AND POPS 7-10-13 S Earle (100-30) R Alner 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

SPUFFINGTON completed double beat Old Bridge 6l in 3-runner novice chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, heavy). BO KNOWS BEST beat Evening Rust 4l in 14-runner novice chase at Windsor (2m 5f, soft) on penultimate start. ORIEL DREAM best effort 67l 11th of 22 to Bickerman in handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, soft).
Selection: SPUFFINGTON

2.40 PARTNERSHIP PARADE HURDLE
(Limited handicap: £5,706: 2m 110yd) (5 runners)

1 422330 JAZILAH 18 (D,G,S) (L Hymas) M Pipe 7-11-10 ... C Swan 91
2 03P-060 KILCASH 16 (B,CD,G,S) (J Whelan) P Hedger 7-10-5 ... G Bradley 89
3 F5-5128 ARABIAN BOLD 16 (D,F,G,S) (Sheikh A Dahlawi) N Henderson 7-10-3 ... M A Fitzgerald 89
4 122-F30 BELL STAFFBOY 17 (D,F,G) (K Bell & Son Ltd) C Broad 6-10-3 ... W Marston 84
5 1110 BALANAK 16 (D,S) (W Dore) D Gandolfo 4-10-3 ... A Maguire 85

Long handicap: Arabian Bold 10-1, Bell Staffboy 9-11, Balanak 9-10.

BETTING: 9-4 Arabian Bold, 11-4 Jazilah, 3-1 Balanak, 11-2 Kilcash, 7-1 Bell Staffboy.

1994: HIGH BARON 7-11-8 R Dunwoody (4-1) R Alner 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

JAZILAH 34l 10th of 14 to Alderbrook in grade I Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, soft). Previously 23l 3rd to Alderbrook in grade II Kingwell Hurdle at Wincanton (2m, soft). ARABIAN BOLD 14l 10th to Home Counties in County Handicap Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, soft) with KILCASH (4lb better off) 3l 13th. Previously 14l 2nd of 4 to Large Action in handicap hurdle at Nottingham (2m, soft). BELL STAFFBOY 14l 3rd to dead-heaters Bramblesberry and Mr Confusion in handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). BALANAK 24l 11th to Kissair in grade I Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, soft).
Selection: ARABIAN BOLD

3.15 PEREGRINE HANDICAP CHASE (£8,364: 2m 3f 110yd) (7 runners)

1 P11-3P4 GALE AGAIN 13 (F,G,S) (P Pfiffer) T Stack (Ire) 8-11-13 ... C Swan 98
2 3-111U1 RABA RIBA 14B (D,F,G) (B Tunstcliffe) J Spearing 10-10-8 ... D Bridgwater 91
3 235521 LACKENDARA 10 (C,F,G,S) (Opening Bid Prisers) Miss H Knight 8-10-3 ... J Osborne 96
4 1F-5115 BIG MATT 16 (G,S) (R Staer) N Henderson 7-10-0 ... M A Fitzgerald 89
5 123P21 SEVEN OF DIAMONDS 8 (F,G,S) (T Keeping) R Alner 10-10-0 ... A Maguire 98
6 212/534- MONTALINO 459 (F,G) (Mrs M Humphrey) R Rowe 12-10-0 ... Peter Hobbs 79
7 212394 STRONG APPROACH 11 (D,G,S) (Mrs R Carr) J Charlton 10-10-0 ... W Marston 82

Long handicap: Big Matt 9-12, Seven Of Diamonds 9-3, Montalino 8-11, Strong Approach 8-8.

BETTING: 9-4 Lackendara, 3-1 Gale Again, 7-2 Seven Of Diamonds, 5-1 Big Matt, Raba Riba, 12-1 others.

1994: LITTLE TOM 9-10-0 J R Kavanagh (20-1) J King 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

GALE AGAIN best effort this term 20l 3rd of 5 to Current Express in handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to soft). RABA RIBA beat Menebuck 15l in handicap chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good). LACKENDARA beat Sailors Luck 4l in handicap chase at Exeter (2m 2f, good to soft). BIG MATT beat LACKENDARA (2lb worse off) ... in 4-runner handicap chase at Kempton (2m 4f 110yd, heavy) on penultimate start. SEVEN OF DIAMONDS beat Kentish Piper 25l in 5-runner handicap chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good).
Selection: RABA RIBA

3.50 LETHEBY & CHRISTOPHER LONG DISTANCE HURDLE (BBC1)
(Grade II: £15,440: 3m) (6 runners)

1 111-31P BOKARO 16 (G,S) (Dr A O'Reilly) C Brooks 9-11-10 ... G Bradley 81
2 612-54P SWEET GLOW 16 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs M Fairbrother) M Pipe 8-11-10 ... C Swan 87
3 321P12 CAB ON TARGET 15 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs E Murray) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-7 ... P Niven 89
4 20-FU11 RUFUS 10 (B,D,S) (Mrs D Coleman) B Smart 9-11-3 ... W McFarland 61
5 123500 SPRING MARATHON 16 (S) (Mrs N Duffield) Mrs P Duffield 5-11-3 ... P Holley 82
6 254000 GOSPEL 17 (F,S) (Mrs J Powell) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-2 ... C Llewellyn 70

BETTING: 4-5 Cab On Target, 7-2 Bokaro, Sweet Glow, 14-1 Gospel, 16-1 Rufus, 20-1 Spring Marathon.

1994: SWEET GLOW 7-11-7 R Dunwoody (9-2) M Pipe 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

BOKARO beat Pridwell 2½l in 3-runner conditions hurdle at Haydock (2m, heavy) on penultimate start. SWEET GLOW 16½l 4th of 7 to Mudahim in grade I Cleeve Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f 110yd, heavy) on penultimate start. CAB ON TARGET beat Dominant Serenade 3l in handicap hurdle at Doncaster (3m 110yd, good) on penultimate start, with GOSPEL (23lb worse off) 73l 8th. SPRING MARATHON best recent effort 8l 3rd of 9 to Fatack in conditions hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 4f, good to soft) with GOSPEL (11lb better off) 29l 7th.
Selection: CAB ON TARGET

4.25 MERLIN NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £2,762: 3m 110yd) (7 runners)

1 -PF3 BEAR NECESSITIES 7P (D Fletcher) D Fletcher 10-12-0 ... A Milner (7) –
2 -1121 COOL DAWN 14P (G,S) (The Hon D Harding) H Wellstead 7-12-0 ... Miss D Harding (7) 83
3 645/2-P HURRICANE HUGO 43 (F,S) (Guy Luck) Mrs G Luck 9-12-0 ... J Luck (7) 78
4 -3313 ST LAYCAR 13P (G,S) (D Gregg) J Porter 10-12-0 ... A Greig (7) 94
5 6/P31 TAKE ISSUE 13P (G,S) (Miss V Markowiak) J Poulton 10-12-0 ... D Brean (7) –
6 2-311 YOUNG BRAVE 14P (F,S) (D Young) D Young 9-12-0 ... M G Miller (7) 89
7 P5531 LADY BUCHAN 7P (S) (L Bowles) L Bowles 6-11-9 ... Michael Traurig –

BETTING: 10-11 Cool Dawn, 3-1 Young Brave, 9-2 Hurricane Hugo, 6-1 St Laycar, 14-1 others.

1994: RICHARD HUNT 10-11-7 Miss L Rowe (7-1) V Rowe 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

COOL DAWN beat Clandon Jack distance in 6-runner mixed open at Larkhill (3m, good to soft). HURRICANE HUGO 4l 2nd of 8 to Another Troup in hunter chase at Folkestone (3m 2f, good to firm) on penultimate start. ST LAYCAR 8l 3rd of 7 to Woodbury Fair in open at Tweseldown (3m, good to soft). YOUNG BRAVE beat Copper Rose Hill 5l in 14-runner intermediate at Larkhill (3m, good to soft).
Selection: HURRICANE HUGO

5.00 SPARROW HAWK NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£5,289: 2m 110yd) (14 runners)

1 1 FOODBROKER STAR 21 (D,S) (Food-Brokers Ltd) J Gifford 5-11-10 ... P Hide 93
2 403104 REESHLOCH 14 (D,S) (Mrs M Taylor) A Turnell 6-11-0 ... D Fortt (5) 88
3 U53252 HIGH MIND 26 (J Wilson) Miss L Siddall 6-10-13 ... A Thornton 98
4 F42 SHANKAR 9 (International Plywood Plc) D Nicholson 4-10-10 ... A Maguire 94
5 384331 RANZEL 10 (B,D,S) (Mrs A Leat) Mrs D Haine 5-10-8 ... D Bridgwater 94
6 P32 HAWAIIAN SAM 11 (R Russell) A Turnell 5-10-8 ... L Harvey 85
7 1/12PP5 FLAPJACK LAD 50 (D,S) (T Curtis) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-8 ... C Llewellyn 87
8 31-65SU DISTANT ECHO 26 (F) (M Fordham) D Arbuthnot 5-10-8 ... S McNeill 89
9 0-5310 PERSISTENT GUNNER 79 (D,G) (P Slade) R Hodges 5-10-7 ... W McFarland 88
10 34-500 THE PADRE 53 (S) (T Shrimpton) Miss H Knight 6-10-6 ... J Osborne 83
11 0PP/5 TONY'S DELIGHT 22 (Exors of Mrs S Lousada) C Egerton 7-10-5 ... G Bradley –
12 252-28P TEMAYESTELIGN 37 (G King) D Marks 7-10-2 ... J A McCarthy 93
13 0453-00 ANY MINUTE NOW 11 (Mrs S Crane) J Akehurst 5-10-2 ... M A Fitzgerald 87
14 305300- GUNNER SUE 380 (Mrs H Pratt) M Scudamore 5-10-0 ... M Richards 67

Long handicap: Gunner Sue 9-5.

BETTING: 9-4 Foodbroker Star, 5-1 Shankar, 6-1 Ranzel, 7-1 Hawaiian Sam, 8-1 High Mind, 14-1 others.

1994: NO PAIN NO GAIN 6-11-5 E Murphy (3-1 fav) B Curley 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

FOODBROKER STAR head 2nd of 10 to Wealtabeb (later awarded the race) in novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, soft). HIGH MIND 3l 2nd of 18 to Domitee in novice handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good) with RANZEL (4lb worse off) 1½l 3rd. SHANKAR 7l 2nd of 19 to Sky Run in maiden hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to soft). RANZEL beat Rolling The Bones 2¼l in 9-runner novice handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to soft). HAWAIIAN SAM 2¼l 2nd of 14 to Grooving in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f, good to soft).
Selection: SHANKAR

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
M Pipe	24	89	27.0	J Osborne	28	105	26.7
D Sherwood	13	53	24.5	S McNeill	5	26	19.2
D Nicholson	11	46	23.9	A Maguire	13	71	18.3
Miss H Knight	4	17	23.5	M A Fitzgerald	9	52	17.3
A Turnell	3	14	21.4	C Llewellyn	6	42	14.3

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Fontwell Park (first race 2.10), Kelso (2.00), Southwell (AW, 2.20).
TUESDAY: Hexham (2.10), Nottingham (2.30), Wolverhampton (AW, 2.20).
WEDNESDAY: Ascot (BBC, 1.55), Ludlow (2.15), Ripon (2.25).
THURSDAY: Aintree (BBC, 2.00), Brighton (2.15), Leicester (2.25).
FRIDAY: Aintree (BBC, 2.00), Beverley (2.20), Lingfield Park (2.15)
SATURDAY: Aintree (BBC, 12.30), Beverley (1.00), Hereford (1.35).
Flat meetings in bold

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SEDGEFIELD	104	204	304
W'HAMPTON	105	205	305
CURRAGH	120	220	320

West Indies rocked by Julian

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN BARBADOS

THERE can rarely have been a better start to a Test series than there was here yesterday. Having chosen to bat, West Indies were six for three at the end of the first half hour, yet by lunch it was Australia who were on the run. Then, when Australia picked up three vital wickets in the middle of a scorching afternoon, the initiative was theirs again and by tea West Indies had been bowled out for 195.

It was great stuff. Nothing was more spectacular than the way West Indies set about repairing their innings or more significant than the treatment meted out to Shane Warne, whose figures at the end of his morning spell were 0 for 42 from nine overs. Almost as soon as Hooper came in he drove Reiffel high over extra cover for four, a dramatic assertion of the West Indian style.

The left-handed Julian was the pick of the Australian attack. He and Reiffel, both well over 6ft, found a pitch with more early freshness than its appearance had foreshadowed. The rashness of Williams and Richardson was an added bonus. Richardson, on his return to the West Indies side, throwing his bat at the third ball he received, a wide outswinger, and edging into Healy.

Williams had done much the same to his own third ball, Taylor catching him nicely at first slip, and Campbell, the other opener, got one from Reiffel that lifted and left him, Healy doing the rest. Among a full house were 750 Australians, already in a high state of excitement.

But West Indies responded thrillingly to their crisis. First Lara went to work on Julian, and then, when Warne was introduced, Hooper hit his first three balls for four. Warne's first two overs cost 23 runs. Hooper has gone on record as saying that Warne does not greatly worry him. He believes Abdul Qadir, the Pakistani magician, to have been a better bowler.

And when Warne began by bowling round the wicket to Hooper the message that came across was an ominous one for Australia, as were the results. It was more a negative than an aggressive ploy, and Warne's length and direction were all over the place.

With extraordinary self-belief, Lara and Hooper had added 110 in 22 overs by lunch, Lara staying in his crease to cream Warne through the covers, Hooper going down the pitch to loft him over the in-field. When Hooper was equally severe on Warne in the recent series of one-day internationals, the Australians hoped that in the Test matches it would be different. Yesterday it was not. With Hooper in their side rather than Chanderpaul, West Indies should be stronger than they were against England a year ago.

As if to keep his eye in, Lara came out midway through the lunch interval to be bowled at on the outfield. He was already 58 not out. But 20 minutes into the afternoon he lost Hooper, Taylor taking a good low catch at slip off Julian. From over the wicket at a brisk pace Julian was slanting the ball across the right-handed batsmen, and Hooper was on the front foot, his intended stroke firm but cautious.

Australia's three quicker bowlers were giving little away, and they had further reward for their persistence when Adams went to another slip catch, low again but this time at third slip by Warne.

In the first 50 minutes after lunch, Lara made only two scoring strokes, and he himself was the next to go. Making room to force Julian through the covers off the back foot, he was caught at the umpteenth attempt by Steve Waugh, diving to his right at deep, square gully. In the end, Lara had needed 112 balls for his 65.

The replay of Waugh's catch left some doubt as to whether it was cleanly taken. Lara, clearly unconvinced, asked for a decision. Venkat, umpiring at the bowler's end, referred the matter to Barker at square leg, who gave Lara out.

Had either umpire been in a position to refer to their colleague in front of the television screen, the chances are that Lara would have survived.

WEST INDIES: First Innings

S Williams c Taylor b Julian	1
S C Campbell c Healy b Reiffel	0
B C Lara c S R Waugh b Julian	65
*R B Richardson c Healy b Julian	0
C L Hooper c Taylor b Julian	60
J C Adams c Warne b McGrath	18
†J R Murray c Taylor b McGrath	21
W K Benjamin c Taylor b Warne	14
C E L Ambrose c Blewett b McGrath	7
C A Walsh c S R Waugh b Warne	1
K C G Benjamin not out	0
Extras (3b, 1w, 6nb)	10
Total	195

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-5, 3-6, 4-130, 5-152, 6-158, 7-184, 8-193, 9-194.

AUSTRALIA: *M A Taylor, M J Slater, D C Boon, M E Waugh, G S Blewett, S R Waugh, †I A Healy, P R Reiffel, B Julian, S K Warne, G D McGrath.

Umpires: S Venkataraghavan (India), L Barker (West Indies).


CLIVE MASON/ALLSPORT

Julian is congratulated after removing Williams

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Hamilton Park

Going: heavy

2.00 (5f 4yd) 1, Precious Girl (Darren Moffatt, 11-2); 2, Miss Offset (20-1); 3, Red Simba (Evens fav). 7 ran. 1l, 7l. D Moffatt. Tote: £9.80; £2.50, £3.90. DF: £26.70. CSF: £75.81.

2.30 (6f 5yd) 1, Allaz (A Mackay, 11-1); 2, Kalar (20-1); 3, Birchwood Sun (11-1). Cavers Yangous 5-1 jt-fav. 11 ran. 3l, 4l. D Thom. Tote: £8.10; £3.10, £2.90, £5.00. DF: £73.60. Trio: £372.00 (part won; pool of £272.50 carried forward to 5.00 at Ascot today). CSF: £172.76. Tricast: £2,218.74.

3.00 (1m 65yd) 1, Concer Un (K Darley, 3-1); 2, Acquittal (9-4); 3, Toshiba Talk (14-1). Cool Steel 6-4 fav. 6 ran. Nk, 11l. S Williams. Tote: £4.50; £2.20, £2.00. DF: £6.40. CSF: £9.37. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

3.30 (1m 65yd) 1, Scarisben (J Fortune, 5-1); 2, Samaitan (12-1); 3, Hawwam (9-4 fav). Haban NR: Gospel Song. Nk, 8l. S Kettlewell. Tote: £9.50; £2.40, £2.00, £2.00. DF: £27.80. Trio: £48.40. CSF: £54.10. Tricast: £152.98.

4.00 (1m 4f 17yd) 1, Sarti-Ddu (K Darley, 3-1); 2, Tanah Merah (20-1); 3, The Premier Expres (20-1). Persuasive 9-4 fav. 9 ran. Hd, 2½l. S Williams. Tote: £3.60; £1.70, £2.30, £2.90. DF: £27.70. Trio: £162.10. CSF: £48.42.

4.30 (1m 5f 9yd) 1, Zaaheyah (P Robinson, 7-1); 2, Cutthroat Kid (4-1); 3, Dvorak (9-4 fav). 8 ran. 2½l, 9l. M Hammond. Tote: £9.10; £1.60, £2.20, £1.30. DF: £7.80. CSF: £32.62. Tricast: £74.86.

Placepot: £1,022.90. Quadpot: £48.80.

Huntingdon

Going: good to firm

2.20 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Classic Exhibit (T Eley, 20-1); 2, What If (5-1 fav); 3, Celestial Dance (14-1); 4, Salman (8-1). 32 ran. NR: Cosmic Force, Flapping Freda, Master Glen. ¾l, ¾l. A Forbes. Tote: £45.10; £7.40, £1.70, £3.00, £2.60. DF: £135.30. Trio: £615.00. CSF: £126.88. Tricast: £1,386.78.

2.50 (3m ch) 1, Finkle Street (A Thornton, 14-1); 2, Mander's Way (10-1); 3, Invasion (8-1). Real Progress 7-4 fav. 10 ran. NR: Red Amber. 3l, ¾l. G Hubbard. Tote: £11.60; £2.20, £4.40, £1.50. DF: £41.00. Trio: £207.10. CSF: £126.56. Tricast: £1,085.92.

3.20 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Elfaa (M A Fitzgerald, 20-1); 2, Vintage Claret (10-1); 3, Desert Challenger (14-1). Monnaie Forte 9-4 fav. 15 ran. ¾l, ½l. N Henderson. Tote: £25.60; £6.70, £2.70, £5.90. DF: £426.80. Trio: not won (pool of £455.36 carried forward to 5.00 at Ascot today). CSF: £233.76. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

3.50 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Stormy Petrel (P Hide, 7-1); 2, Nikaroo (25-1); 3, Super Malt (8-13 fav). 6 ran. 7l, 8l. P Walwyn. Tote: £7.50; £2.60, £4.80. DF: £56.10. CSF: £95.68.

4.20 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Fine Harvest (D Bridgwater, 20-1); 2, Sizzling Affair (11-2); 3, Manamour (5-2 fav). 11 ran. 3l, 2½l. J Spearing. Tote: £34.00; £8.20, £1.80, £2.30. DF: £59.20. CSF: £124.61. Tricast: £348.46. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

4.50 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Stoney Valley (N Williamson, 3-1); 2, More Dash Thancash (2-1 fav); 3, Fils De Cresson (10-1). 14 ran. 2l, 6l. J Jenkins. Tote: £4.30; £1.70, £2.20, £2.60. DF: £5.60. Trio: £44.60. CSF: £11.34.

5.20 (2m 110yd flat) 1, Ur Only Young Once (J F Titley, 12-1); 2, Sidanora (10-11 fav); 3, Banny Hill Lad (10-1). 10 ran. 2½l, 5l. Mrs D Haine. Tote: £14.20; £1.80, £1.20, £2.10. DF: £9.00. Trio: £24.90. CSF: £24.42.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £8,966.43 carried forward to Warwick today).

Placepot: £11,593.50.

Quadpot: £122.20 (0.2 winning tickets. Pool of £132.14 carried forward to Warwick today).

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

2.10 (1m 4f) 1, One Off The Rail (L Suthern, 5-4); 2, Elementary (10-11 fav); 3, Long Furlong (9-1). 5 ran. ¾l, 12l. A Moore. Tote: £2.10; £1.10, £1.10. DF: £1.10. CSF: £2.75.

2.40 (1m 2f) 1, Barahin (A Clark, 9-2); 2, Tropical Jungle (7-2); 3, Thames Side (15-2). Pop To Stans 100-30 fav. 8 ran. 2½l, 7l. J Bridger. Tote: £7.30; £1.80, £1.30, £1.60. DF: £13.60. CSF: £19.07.

3.10 (5f) 1, Spender (R Cochrane, 11-2); 2, Little Saboteur (9-2); 3, Tenor (2-1 fav). 7 ran. NR: Stoppes Brow. Nk, hd. P Harris. Tote: £6.70; £3.30, £2.20. DF: £12.40. CSF: £29.60. Tricast: £61.08.

3.40 (6f) 1, Chewit (Candy Morris, 12-1); 2, Crystal Heights (6-1); 3, Sweet Supposin (7-1). Our Shadee 3-1 fav. 10 ran. 3l, hd. A Moore. Tote: £18.60; £3.60, £2.70, £4.10. DF: £79.60. Trio: £42.20. CSF: £82.60. Tricast: £510.77.

4.10 (1m 2f) 1, Proposing (L Dettori, Evens fav); Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, Worldnews Extra (8-1); 3, Danegold (2-1). 6 ran. NR: Pleasant Memories. 2l, 6l. J Gosden. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £2.30. DF: £4.40. CSF: £9.16.

4.40 (1m) 1, Zahran (S Drowne, 12-1); 2, La Residence (25-1); 3, Pair Of Jacks (7-1). Swallow Ridge 5-2 fav. 11 ran. NR: Greatest Hopes. 1¾l, sh hd. J Bradley. Tote: £15.30; £2.00, £13.10, £2.00. DF: £311.10. Trio: £265.60. CSF: £234.10. Tricast: £2,048.38.

Placepot: £184.80. Quadpot: £45.50.

NEWTON ABBOT

THUNDERER

2.00 Violet's Boy. 2.35 Southerly Gale. 3.05 Big Strand. 3.35 Cache Fleur. 4.05 Corrin Hill. 4.40 Saffaah. 5.10 Dukes Meadow.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.05 BIG STRAND.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

2.00 PARTYFARE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,840: 2m 6f) (10 runners)

1 21-3 WINGS COVE 136 (B,S) Lady Herries 5-12-0 — J J Brown (3)
2 3963 MR PICKPOCKET 21 (V,S) J Akehurst 7-10-13 — F Leahy
3 1300 BARBER BOXING 16 (CD,S) M Pipe 6-10-8 — L Reynolds (3)
4 132P BEYOND OUR REACH 10 (D,G,S) R Hodges 7-10-8 — T Dascombe
5 2524 MISS PURBECK 10 (C,D,G,S) Mrs J Retter 8-10-5 — S Fox
6 PP25 CHIEF CELT 10 (G,S) J King 9-10-3 — T Jenks
7 3-51 BLACK H'PENNY 44 (B,S) J Old 7-10-0 — Pat Thompson (5)
8 5/P BE MY HABITAT 37 (F,S) Mrs A Knight 6-10-0 — D Matthews
9 14-1 VIOLET'S BOY 19 (G,S) P Hobbs 8-10-0 — G Tormey
10 5248 CHICKABIDDY 10 (F,G) G Edwards 7-10-0 — A P McCoy

3-1 Black H'Penny, 4-1 Dancer Blanc, 9-2 Wings Cove, 11-2 Violet's Boy, 6-1 Miss Purbeck, 8-1 Mr Pickpocket, 10-1 others.

2.35 CARLSBERG-TETLEY NOVICES CHASE (£2,931: 3m 2f 110yd) (16)

1 1 KANCELSKIS 11 (D,S) D Murray Smith 6-11-3 — D Gallagher
2 2F25 SHAMARPHIL 21 (C,F,S) K Bishop 9-10-12 — R Greene
3 34P5 DESERT RUN 7 P Nicholls 7-10-10 — N Williamson
4 0/P JELLYBAND 141 (B) P Nicholls 7-10-10 — C Maude
5 2534 MAJOR BUSH 15 (S) Miss C Johnsey 8-10-10 — A P McCoy
6 04-R MATAWAI 15 Mrs J Renfree-Barons 8-10-10 — Mr G Shenkin (7)
7 -330 MEDIANE 32 (G,S) M Bradstock 10-10-10 — G Upton
8 0 SAUNDERS COURT 77 F Murphy 5-10-10 — M Foster
9 F22P SOUTHERLY GALE 32 M Pipe 8-10-10 — R Dunwoody
10 P SURRENDELL 53 R Hawker 6-10-10 — Lorna Vincent
11 P456 WODEHOUSE 82 J Bosley 10-10-10 — M Bosley
12 R3FP WOODHAY HILL 51 (G) Mrs M McCourt 10-10-10 — G McCourt
13 2053 CAPPUCCINO GIRL 43 (G) F Gray 8-10-5 — M Crosse
14 PPPP COPPER PAN 23 J Hosby 8-10-5 — M Hourigan
15 -P54 SAINTE MARTINE 18 B Millman 8-10-5 — D Salter (5)
16 30-0 TAMAR LASS 23 (G,S) Miss J du-Plessis 10-10-5 — R Darke

3-1 Kancelskis, 7-2 Major Bush, 5-1 Southerly Gale, 6-1 Shamarphil, 7-1 Desert Run, 10-1 Mediane, Cappuccino Girl, 12-1 others.

3.05 PETERS SAVOURIES NOVICES HURDLE (£3,298: 2m 1f) (16)

1 1100 BIG STRAND 18 (S) M Pipe 6-11-6 — R Dunwoody
2 5-34 BARTON SANTA 14 K Bailey 6-11-0 — N Williamson
3 BATTLE AIR M Pipe 7-11-0 — J Lower
4 D0-6 DARING KING 23 M Bolton 5-11-0 — B Clifford
5 -2P6 DRESS DANCE 22 N Mitchell 5-11-0 — Miss S Mitchell (7)
6 5100 GREEN'S FAIR 31 (D,S) G Ham 5-11-0 — A P McCoy
7 5-26 JAPACADA 136 S Mellor 5-11-0 — N Mann
8 -506 RIVER CONSORT 10 (B) A Dunn 7-11-0 — C Maude
9 00- LULA RIDGE 325 M Keenor 5-10-9 — S Lyons (3)
10 0000 SUPER SARENA 11 R Frost 6-10-9 — J Frost
11 04P DRY SEA 88 R Frost 4-10-8 — R Darke
12 2F02 INDIAN TEMPLE 65 M Saunders 4-10-8 — V Slattery
13 P LIME STREET BLUES 31 S Christian 4-10-8 — G Upton
14 U POWER SHARE 30F Mrs A Knight 4-10-8 — D Matthews (5)
15 56 SAAR 18 R Baker 4-10-8 — D Leahy (3)
16 6-30 APPEARANCE MONEY 194F F Murphy 4-10-3 — M Foster

6-4 Big Strand, 9-2 Battle Air, 5-1 Barton Santa, 8-1 Appearance Money, 10-1 Dress Dance, Green's Fair, 14-1 others.

3.35 WILF TOWNSEND MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (£4,492: 2m 5f) (7)

1 2313 CACHE FLEUR 18 (F,G,S) M Pipe 9-12-0 — R Dunwoody
2 /45 PLASTIC SPACEAGE 35 (C,G,S) J Old 12-11-11 — T Grantham
3 8-P6 CANDSCAN 141 (D,BF,G,S) Lady Herries 10-10-6 — E Murphy
4 P541 ANDERMATT 7 (D,S) J Mackie 8-10-4 — R Farrant
5 21PP BENJAMIN LANCASTER 17 (CD,G,S) M Griffin 11-10-0 — A P McCoy
6 -334 PARDON ME MUM 113 (B,F,G,S) K Bailey 10-10-0 — N Williamson
7 F-53 ABBOTSHAM 17 (C,F,G,S) O Carter 10-10-0 — —

6-4 Cache Fleur, 5-2 Andermatt, 9-2 Plastic Spaceage, 6-1 Candscan, 10-1 others.

4.05 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,422: 2m 1f) (12)

1 1454 AAL EL AAL 23 (CD,G,S) P Hobbs 8-11-10 — G Tormey (5)
2 3420 TEEN JAY 8F (V,CD,F,G,S) S Sherwood 5-11-9 — R Dunwoody
3 2206 KEEP ME IN MIND 16 (S) N Mitchell 6-11-7 — D Skyrme
4 813- KING'S SHILLING 58F (D,F,G,S) H Oliver 8-11-5 — V Slattery
5 3008 NOBLELY 10 (D,F,G) N Walker 8-11-4 — N Williamson
6 0U22 ROUTING 163 (CD,F) N Ayliffe 7-11-3 — D Gallagher
7 6-40 DOC'S COAT 23 (C,D,F,G,S) C Wildman 10-10-11 — A P McCoy
8 /32- FUNAMBULIEN 393 (D,F,G) N Walker 8-10-7 — Guy Lewis (5)
9 401P THE MINDER 18 (D,S) G Edwards 8-10-6 — B Salter (5)
10 -2P6 DRESS DANCE 22 N Mitchell 5-10-1 — Miss S Mitchell (7)
11 1402 CORRIN HILL 9 (D,F,S) R Hodges 8-10-0 — J Harris (7)
12 4131 PETRJEAN 14 (D,S) D Burchell 4-10-0 — D J Burchell

7-2 Aal El Aal, 5-1 Teen Jay, Keep Me In Mind, 6-1 Noblely, 7-1 Routing, 10-1 King's Shilling, Funambulien, 12-1 others.

4.40 SQUIRES RECRUITMENT HANDICAP CHASE (£3,420: 2m 110yd) (7)

1 311P SAFFAAH 85 (D,B,S) M Pipe 8-12-0 — R Dunwoody
2 2111 JAMES THE FIRST 14 (CD,G,S) P Nicholls 7-11-4 — Guy Lewis (5)
3 F4UU TREVAYLOR 10 (CD,G,S) P Hobbs 11-11-3 — N Williamson
4 -PP3 RECTORY BOY 25 (D,F,S) B Llewellyn 12-10-0 — M Hourigan
5 2234 PONTYNYSWEN 24F (V,G,S) D Burchell 7-10-0 — D J Burchell
6 424U EVENING RAIN 12 (B,CD,F,G,S) R Hodges 9-10-0 — T Lawrence
7 2FP4 TUMBLED BRIDE 19 (S) V Greenway 9-10-0 — A P McCoy

6-4 James The First, 2-1 Saffaah, 5-1 Trevaylor, 10-1 Pontynyswen, 16-1 Evening Rain, 20-1 Rectory Boy, Tumbled Bride.

5.10 AFTERTHOUGHT OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,593: 2m 1f) (16)

1 00 BALLYDANTE 122 D Gandolfo 5-11-0 — D Leahy (3)
2 3- DUKES MEADOW 350 K Bailey 5-11-0 — N Williamson
3 0 EL FREDDIE 9 J Old 5-11-0 — T Grantham
4 0 KIRSTY'S PAL 89 D Bloomfield 6-11-0 — R Darke
5 0 PALLADIUM BOY 51 Mrs J Retter 5-11-0 — A P McCoy
6 8 PENNCALER 8 P Hobbs 5-11-0 — G Tormey (5)
7 0 SAUCY'S WOLF 9 Mrs E Brooks 5-11-0 — Mr David Jones
8 PP- SCBOO 329 R Peacock 6-11-0 — D Gallagher
9 2 GLENGARRIF GIRL 24 (V) M Pipe 5-10-9 — R Dunwoody
10 3 HALONA 35 S Christian 5-10-9 — G Upton
11 0 LANDSKER STAR 136 F Hodis 5-10-9 — D Salter (5)
12 0 NOMINATION GOLD 9 B Palling 5-10-9 — R Farrant
13 3- PRIVILEGEDTOSERVE 369 K Bishop 5-10-9 — M Moran (7)
14 00 VENDEE 39 Miss J Doyle 5-10-9 — Mr G Brown
15 0 CALMING THE ROYALS 9 W G Turner 4-10-8 — Pat Thompson (7)
16 0 JOLI-DEE 51 R Frost 4-10-3 — J Frost

9-4 Glengarrif Girl, 3-1 Dukes Meadow, 9-2 Penncaler, 6-1 Halona, 8-1 Privilegedtoserve, 10-1 El Freddie, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: S Sherwood, 8 winners from 18 runners, 44.4%; Miss J Doyle, 3 from 7, 42.9%; J Old, 7 from 23, 30.4%; M Pipe, 98 from 336, 29.2%; P Hobbs, 30 from 110, 27.3%.

JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody, 47 winners from 161 rides, 29.2%; G McCourt, 11 from 45, 24.4%; N Williamson, 12 from 53, 22.6%; T Jenks, 4 from 18, 22.2%; Miss S Mitchell, 3 from 17, 17.6%.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

7.00 Emnala. 7.30 Primula Bairn. 8.00 Jon's Choice. 8.30 A Million Watts. 9.00 Norman Prince. 9.30 How's It Goin.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

7.00 TRESCOTT MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,795: 1m 4f) (8 runners)

1 000- LAST CORNER 198 R Hollinshead 9-0 — K Darley 5
2 6- PETER MONAMY 211 P Cole 9-0 — T Quinn 2
3 0 ROADSWEEPER 30 K Cunningham-Brown 9-0 — T Ives 4
4 40 SIMPOSA 12 J Banks 9-0 — J Quinn 3
5 44 DARLING CLOVER 29 D Morley 8-9 — M Fenton 6
6 065- EMNALA 166 M Channon 8-9 — R Hughes 8
7 LADY KUYNDER J Scargill 8-9 — D Holland 7
8 0- RAINY DAY WOMAN 256 J Scargill 8-9 — D Harrison 1

5-2 Peter Monamy, 3-1 Emnala, 7-2 Darling Clover, 5-1 Last Corner, 6-1 Simposa, 10-1 Lady Kuynder, 12-1 others.

7.30 PERTON CLAIMING STAKES (£2,243: 5f) (5)

1 1120 TYRIAN PURPLE 7 (B,D,F,G,S) T Naughton 7-9-2 — D Harrison 2
2 6232 VERY DICEY 28 (CD,BF,G,S) J Berry 7-9-2 — P Roberts (7) 1
3 -164 SIGAMA 2 (CD,F,G) D Nicholls 9-9-0 — Alex Greaves 4
4 1183 PRIMULA BAIRN 24 (V,CD,G,S) Mrs J Ramsden 5-8-11 — K Fallon 3
5 40- SHE'S A MADAM 141 L Lloyd-James 4-8-11 — N Kennedy 5

6-4 Very Dicey, 2-1 Primula Bairn, 3-1 Tyrian Purple, 8-1 Sigama, 25-1 She's A Madam.

8.00 PORTOBELLO HANDICAP (£2,768: 6f) (7)

1 480- BROOKHEAD LADY 201 (D,F,S) P Evans 4-10-0 — D Holland 7
2 050- ANOTHER JADE 201 (D,G,S) A Jarvis 5-10-0 — K Darley 2
3 0505 JON'S CHOICE 24 (CD,G) B Preece 7-9-13 — T Wall 4
4 4153 AT THE SAVOY 12 (B) T Barron 4-9-8 — Kimberley Hart (7) 3
5 3303 HEATHYARDS LADY 24 (CD,F,G,S) R Hollinshead 4-9-5 — T Ives 6
6 3044 CHRISTIAN FLIGHT 12 S Gollings 6-8-13 — D Harrison 5
7 0050 BOLD CYRANO 16 B Palling 4-8-11 — B Duffield 1

9-4 At The Savoy, 3-1 Christian Flight, 7-2 Heathyards Lady, 9-2 Jon's Choice, 10-1 Brookhead Lady, 12-1 Another Jade, 16-1 Bold Cyrano.

8.30 BILSTON HANDICAP (£3,348: 1m 100yd) (8)

1 -251 A MILLION WATTS 29 (D,F,G) Lady Herries 4-10-0 — T Ives 3
2 -115 BOTESAAD 74 (CD,BF,G) S Williams 4-9-12 — K Darley 5
3 2130 QUINZII MARTIN 33 (C,D,G) D Haydn Jones 7-9-4 — T Williams 2
4 0021 TILLY OWL 42 (C,S) J A Harris 4-8-7 — J O'Reilly 1
5 D-08 SUPER HEIGHTS 14 (B,CD,F,G) D Williams 7-8-4 — D Griffiths (5) 7
6 0-66 BACKSTABBER 24 (D,G) Miss S Wilton 5-7-9 — A Mackay 8
7 5-05 GALLOP TO GLORY 70 (B,F) A Forbes 5-7-7 — N Adams 6
8 000- PORTLAND WAY 228 A Jarvis 3-7-7 — B Hunter (7) 4

6-4 A Million Watts, 11-4 Botesaad, 7-2 Tilly Owl, 8-1 Super Heights, 10-1 Quinzii Martin, Gallop To Glory, 12-1 others.

9.00 SEISDON SELLING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,243: 1m 1f 79yd) (7)

1 -040 SLYTLY BEVELED 7 (B,G) N Littmoden 9-2 — T G McLaughlin (5) 5
2 6542 KEYS SEMINAR 7 (B) N Callaghan 8-11 — Stephen Davies 2
3 028- NORMAN PRINCE 91 Mrs N Macauley 8-11 — M Fenton 1
4 0 SHARED 8 (B) W Haggas 8-11 — M Tebbutt 3
5 -423 CHASTLETON 28 M Channon 8-6 — Candy Morris 4
6 5355 FOOLS OF PRIDE 23 R Hollinshead 8-6 — K Darley 6
7 00-0 HUNZA STORY 12 N Littmoden 8-6 — D Holland 7

9-4 Keys Seminar, 11-4 Slytly Beveled, 4-1 Norman Prince, 5-1 Shared, 8-1 Chastleton, 10-1 Fools Of Pride, 14-1 Hunza Story.

9.30 BUSHBURY HANDICAP (£2,243: 2m 46yd) (13)

1 5112 ROYAL CITIZEN 29 (C,G) J Bottomley 6-10-0 — T Ives 3
2 2690 HOW'S IT GOIN 8 (G) W Muir 4-9-7 — D Harrison 12
3 0-02 RED WHIRLWIND 30 R O'Sullivan 5-9-6 — W Woods 1
4 000- RASAYEL 350 (G) P Evans 5-9-3 — D Holland 8
5 0-50 SWORDKING 14 (C,G,S) J L Harris 6-9-3 — Paul Eddery 2
6 0160 AWESTRUCK 24 (C,F,G,S) B Preece 5-9-0 — B Duffield 13
7 100- DUGORT STRAND 194 (G) J L Harris 4-8-13 — S Sanders (3) 4
8 4304 SASSIVER 68 (G) P Kelleway 5-8-13 — Adelle Gibbons (7) 9
9 0004 BUD'S BET 22J W Haigh 7-8-7 — Dale Gibson 5
10 3203 CHILD STAR 45 (F,C,D,G,S) D Marks 6-8-3 — M Baird (5) 11
11 2215 WHO'S THE BEST 25J (D,BF,F,G) A Jarvis 5-8-2 — B Hunter (7) 7
12 6025 NOTHING DOING 35 W Musson 6-8-1 — J Quinn 10
13 10-6 TOP PRIZE 89 (D,F,B) M Brittain 7-8-0 — J Lowe 6

3-1 Royal Citizen, 6-1 How's It Goin, Awestruck, 8-1 Red Whirlwind, Child Star, 10-1 Nothing Doing, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Bottomley, 3 winners from 10 runners, 30.0%; W Haggas, 5 from 17, 29.4%; T Barron, 8 from 36, 22.2%; M Channon, 5 from 30, 16.7%; J A Harris, 4 from 26, 15.4%; J Berry, 19 from 124, 15.3%.

JOCKEYS: W Woods, 6 winners from 21 rides, 28.6%; K Darley, 17 from 69, 24.6%; B Duffield, 10 from 53, 18.9%; D Harrison, 10 from 72, 13.9%; M Baird, 5 from 39, 12.8%; D Holland, 5 from 40, 12.5%.

Blinkered first time

ASCOT: 5.00 The Padre. NEWTON ABBOT: 3.05 River Consort. 4.40 Evening Rain. 5.10 Glengarrif Girl. SEDGEFIELD: 1.55 Thersia. 4.30 Treskidder. WARWICK: 3.20 Brisquest. 3.55 Purple Splash. WOLVERHAMPTON: 9.00 Slytly Beveled, Shared.

Fisher aims to catch last place in final

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS

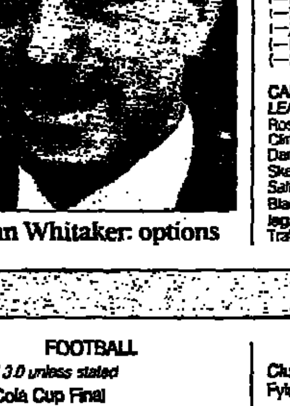
AS THE Volvo World Cup season draws to a close, most of the world's top show jumping riders have travelled to the Palais Omnisport here for the last qualifying competition prior to the Gothenberg final in two weeks' time. Missing from the line-up, however, is the No 1 in the world rankings, Franke Sloothaak.

The opening class of the three-day show yesterday went to Thomas Fuchs, of Switzerland, riding Planette AC Folien. Best of the British contingent was James Fisher, who finished eighth with Rose Princess. Fisher will be keenly awaiting the Volvo competition tomorrow as he is eighteenth, the final qualifying ticket, with several other riders snapping at his heels. It would be a first Volvo final for Fisher and his mare, Bowriver Queen.

One place ahead of him is Nick Skelton, who will be looking to consolidate his position with Everest Dollar Girl. John Whitaker is keeping his options open until today as to whether he rides Everest Welham or Everest Grannusch.

His brother, Michael, will be riding Everest Twostep, the horse on whom he recently won the Dortmund Grand Prix.

RESULTS: Prix Des Ecoliers: 1, T Fuchs (Switz) Planette AC Folien 45.43sec; 2, H Godignon (Fr) Uquileo le Fol 46.26; 3, P Rozier (Fr) Baiko Ubaze 46.34.



John Whitaker: options

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership

(—) Arsenal v Norwich
(—) Chelsea v Newcastle
(1) Coventry v QPR
(—) Crystal Palace v Man City
(2) Everton v Blackburn
(3) Ipswich v Aston Villa
(4) Leicester v Wimbledon
(5) Man Utd v Leeds P
(6) Sheff Wed v Nottingham Forest

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn	34	23	7	4	70	29	76
Man Utd	35	22	7	6	66	24	73
Newcastle	34	16	9	7	56	36	63
Nottm For	35	17	9	9	56	38	60
Liverpool	32	16	10	6	54	26	58
Leeds	33	14	10	9	44	33	52
Tottenham	33	14	10	9	52	42	52
Wimbledon	34	14	6	14	41	54	48
QPR	32	12	8	12	50	50	44
Sheff Wed	35	11	10	14	43	46	43
Coventry	35	10	13	12	37	53	43
Norwich	34	10	12	12	33	33	42
Man City	34	10	11	13	43	52	41
Arsenal	34	10	10	14	36	40	40
Chelsea	33	10	10	13	43	46	40
Aston Villa	34	8	12	13	46	48	39
Everton	34	9	12	13	37	46	39
West Ham	34	10	7	17	33	44	37
Soton	32	7	15	10	44	51	36
C Palace	32	8	10	14	23	34	34
Ipswich	33	6	5	22	31	75	23
Leicester	34	4	9	21	36	66	21

Endsleigh Insurance League

First division

(7) Burnley v Millwall
(8) Charlton v Stoke
(9) Derby v Bristol City
(10) Notts County v Barnsley
(11) Port Vale v Grimsby
(—) Reading v Swindon
(12) Southend v Wolverhampton
(13) Sunderland v Sheffield Utd
(14) Tranmere v Portsmouth
(15) Watford v Oldham
(16) West Brom v Middlesbrough

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbro	38	20	9	9	56	32	69
Bolton	37	18	11	8	60	37	65
Tranmere	39	19	9	11	56	42	66
Wolves	36	19	6	11	61	46	63
Reading	39	18	9	12	45	37	63
Sheff Utd	39	16	14	9	64	44	62
Barnsley	37	17	8	12	54	44	59
Derby	38	16	10	12	52	39	58
Watford	37	14	13	10	43	39	55
Grimsby	39	13	13	13	56	51	52
Luton	38	14	10	14	52	53	52
Charlton	37	14	9	14	50	52	51
Millwall	38	13	12	13	49	49	51
West Brom	39	14	8	17	41	49	50
Oldham	37	12	11	14	49	50	47
Southend	39	13	8	18	42	66	47
Port Vale	38	12	10	16	47	55	46
Portsmouth	39	11	12	16	45	55	45
Stoke	36	11	12	13	37	43	45
Sunderland	39	9	15	15	34	40	42
Bristol City	39	10	11	18	37	53	41
Swindon	37	10	10	17	45	61	40
Burnley	38	9	11	18	39	63	36
Notts Cty	38	8	10	20	41	54	34

Second division

(17) Birmingham v Rotherham
(18) Bournemouth v Leyton Orient
(19) Bradford v Wrexham
(20) Brentford v York
(21) Brighton v Blackpool
(22) Bristol Rovers v Swansea
(23) Cambridge Utd v Plymouth
(24) Cardiff v Chester
(25) Crewe v Oxford Utd
(26) Huddersfield v Peterborough
(27) Hull v Wycombe
(28) Shrewsbury v Stockport

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Huddersfld	39	21	12	6	71	40	75
Brentford	38	22	7	9	69	31	73
Birmingham	36	19	11	6	67	28	68
Oxford Utd	38	19	9	10	58	44	66
Bristol Rov	37	17	13	7	60	34	64
Swansea	37	16	14	7	51	36	62
Wycombe	37	16	13	8	47	39	61
Crewe	37	18	6	13	62	60	60
Hull	37	17	9	11	58	46	60
Blackpool	39	17	8	14	57	56	59
Bradford	38	16	10	12	54	51	58
York	38	17	7	14	53	43	58
Wrexham	37	14	12	11	59	54	54
Stockport	39	16	6	17	54	53	54
Brighton	39	12	13	14	45	44	49
Rotherham	39	12	12	15	50	54	48
Peterboro	38	10	16	12	47	63	46
Shrewsbury	38	11	12	15	47	50	45
Camb Utd	39	8	13	18	46	64	37
Bournemth	39	8	11	20	38	65	35
Plymouth	37	9	6	22	34	71	33
Cardiff	38	7	9	22	39	64	30
Leyton O	37	6	8	23	27	58	26
Chester	39	4	9	26	32	77	21

Third division

(29) Doncaster v Bury
(30) Exeter v Chesterfield
(31) Hartlepool v Northampton
(32) Mansfield v Carlisle
(33) Preston v Gillingham
(34) Rochdale v Barnet
(35) Scarborough v Fulham
(36) Scunthorpe v Darlington
(37) Torquay v Hereford
(38) Walsall v Colchester
(39) Wigan v Lincoln

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlisle	34	23	9	2	58	22	78
Chesterfield	34	18	10	6	48	30	64
Walsall	32	17	9	6	53	35	60
Bury	33	17	8	8	53	31	59
Mansfield	35	17	7	11	73	47	58
Preston	35	16	8	11	50	36	56
Doncaster	35	15	10	10	46	29	55
Colchester	34	14	8	12	44	50	50
Fulham	34	12	13	9	48	43	49
Scunthorpe	34	14	6	14	55	49	48
Barnet	34	13	9	12	42	46	48
Torquay	35	12	9	14	45	50	45
Rochdale	34	11	11	12	39	52	44
Wigan	33	11	9	13	46	49	42
Lincoln	33	11	9	13	42	44	42
Hereford	35	9	10	16	37	55	37
Darlington	35	10	7	18	35	47	37
Northampton	35	7	12	16	36	53	33
Gillingham	33	8	8	17	36	50	32
Hartlepool	35	8	8	19	33	61	32
Exeter	34	8	8	18	30	56	32
Scarboro	34	6	8	20	37	57	26

Vauxhall Conference

(40) Altrincham v Bath
(41) Bromsgrove v Macclesfield
(42) Dover v Southport
(43) Farnborough v Telford
(—) Gateshead v Welling
(—) Halifax v Stevenage
(—) Kettering v Dagenham and Red
(—) Merthyr v Kidderminster
(—) Northwich v Woking
(—) Stalybridge v Runcorn
(—) Yeovil v Stafford

Bell's Scottish League

Premier division

(44) Aberdeen v Kilmarnock
(45) Celtic v Motherwell
(46) Dundee Utd v Rangers
(47) Hearts v Falkirk
(48) Partick v Hibernian

First division

(49) Airdrie v Stranraer
(50) Ayr v Raith
(51) Dunfermline v Dundee
(52) St Johnstone v Clydebank
(53) St Mirren v Hamilton

Second division

(54) Dumbarton v Brechin
(55) East Fife v Berwick
(56) Meadowbank v Clyde
(57) Queen of South v Stirling
(58) Stenhousemuir v Greenock Morton

Third division

(—) Albion v Forfar
(—) Alloa v Cowdenbeath
(—) East Stirling v Caley This
(—) Montrose v Arbroath
(—) Ross County v Queen's Park

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Burscough v Rossendale; Chadderton v Maine Road; Clitheroe v Kidsgrove; Eastwood H v Darwen; Glossop North End v Skelmersdale; Penrith v Newcastle Town; Salford v Bradford Park Avenue; St Helens v Blackpool Rovers. Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Prescot v Nantwich. Tetley Walker v Trafford.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Burton v Gravesend and Northfleet; Chelmsford v Cambridge City; Crawley v Leek; Dorchester v Solihull; Gloucester v Trowbridge; Halesowen v Cheltenham; Hastings v Corby; Rushden and Diamonds v Atherstone; Sittingbourne v VS Rugby; Sudbury v Hednesford. Southern division: Bashley v Weston-super-Mare; Burnham v Salisbury; Clevedon v Fisher 93; Havant v Braintree; Margate v Fareham; Newport IoW v Erith and Belvedere; Waterlooville v Tonbridge AFC; Wealdstone v Poole; Weymouth v Witney; Yate v Baldock. Midland division: Armitage v Sutton Coldfield; Dudley Town v RC Warwick; Forest Green v Buxton; King's Lynn v Bedworth; Leicester United v Ilkeston; Moor Green v Tamworth; Newport AFC v Stourbridge; Redditch v Nuneaton.

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Carshalton; Bromley v Hitchin; Chesham v Yeading; Dulwich v Bishop's Stortford; Grays v Wokingham; Hayes v Enfield; Marlow v Hendon; Molesey v Harrow; Purfleet v Kingstonian; Slough v Walton and Hersham; Sutton United v St Albans. First division: Aldershot Town v Wembley; Barking v Newbury; Berkhamsted v Basingstoke; Billericay v Staines; Bognor Regis v Maidenhead; Boreham Wood v Leyton; Chertsey v Abingdon Town; Dorking v Wivenhoe; Uxbridge v Tooting and Mitcham; Whyteleafe v Heybridge Swifts; Worthing v Ruislip Manor. Second division: Bracknell v Witham; Chalfont St Peter v Banstead; Edgware v Croydon; Egham v Barton; Hampton v Chesham; Hungerford v Saffron Walden; Metropolitan Police v Malden Vale; Oxford City v Leatherhead; Ware v Aveley; Windsor and Eton v Tilbury. Third division: Bedford Town v Lewes; Canvey Island v Camberley; Clapton v Harefield; Cove v Horsham; East Thurrock v Tring; Epsom and Ewell v Collier Row; Flackwell Heath v Hornchurch; Harlow v Leighton; Kingsbury v Northwood; Southall v Feltham and Hounslow.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Barrow v Droylsden; Bishop Auckland v Emley; Colwyn Bay v Buxton; Guiseley v Chorley; Hyde v Boston; Knowsley v Spennymoor; Matlock v Accrington Stanley; Whitley Bay v Marine. First division: Atherton v Harrogate Town; Ashton United v Blyth Spartans; Atherton LR v Curzon Ashton; Bamber Bridge v Caernarfon; Fleetwood v Farsley Celtic; Goole v Lancaster; Gretna v Congleton; Netherfield v Mossley; Radcliffe v Great Harwood; Warrington v Worksop; Workington v Eastwood Town.

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Porthmadog; Afan Lido v Bangor City (2.30); Conwy v Maesteg Park; Flint Town v Ebbw Vale; Holywell v Cwmbran (2.0); Llanelli v Mold; Llansantffraid v Barry; Rhyl v Caersws; Ton Pentre v Connah's Quay.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Brentwood v Southend Manor; East Ham v Concord; Eton Manor v Hullbridge Sports; Maldon v Great Wakering Rovers; Romford v Bowers.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Amersham v Hanwell; Barkingside v Brimsdown; Brook House v Beaconsfield Sycob; Corinthian Casuals v Haringey; St Margaretsbury v Hillingdon; Tower Hamlets v Willesden; Waltham Abbey v Croydon; Walthamstow Pennant v Cockfosters.

PARASOL COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cranleigh v Sandhurst; DCA Basingstoke v Viking Sports; Farnham v Peppard; Godalming and Guildford v Chipstead; Merstham v Ash. Challenge Vase. Third round: Horley v Bedfont.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Biggleswade v Dunstable; Brache Sparta v Letchworth Garden City; Buckingham Athletic v Hatfield; Harpenden v Langford; Milton Keynes v Royston; Potters Bar v Hoddesdon; Wingate and Finchley v Shillington. O'Brien Butchers Trophy: Totternhoe v Welwyn Garden City.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bridport v Frome; Calne v Torrington; Chippenham v Barnstaple; Elmore v Odd Down; Paulton v Liskeard; Taunton v Westbury; Tiverton v Mangotsfield.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chatteris v Woodbridge; Cornard v Halstead; Fakenham v Diss; Felixstowe v Histon; Great Yarmouth v Tiptree; Harwich and Parkeston v Soham; March v Lowestoft; Newmarket v Sudbury; Wisbech v Wroxham.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Totton v Andover; Bournemouth v East Cowes; Brockenhurst v Portsmouth; Cowes Sports v BAT; Eastleigh v Thatcham; Fleet v Lymington; Gosport v Downton; Horndean v Aerostructures; Petersfield v Christchurch; Ryde Sports v Swanage and Herston; Wimborne v Bemerton Heath.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: East Grinstead v Burgess Hill; Hailsham v Wick; Langney Sports v Arundel; Newhaven v Southwick; Peacehaven/Telscombe v Portfield; Ringmer v Crowborough; Shoreham v Littlehampton; Stamco v Oakwood; Whitehawk v Three Bridges.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Crockenhill; Chatham v Ramsgate; Cray v Faversham; Darenth Heathside v Corinthian; Folkestone Invicta v Herne Bay; Greenwich v Sheppey; Kent Police v Thamesmead; Slade Green v Dartford; Tunbridge Wells v Canterbury; Whitstable v Furness.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon v Almondsbury; Brackley v Cinderford; Carterton v Pegasus Juniors; Fairford v Banbury; North Leigh v Tuffley; Shortwood v Cirencester.

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne v Desborough; Eynesbury v Raunds; Holbeach v Kempston; Northampton Spencer v Stamford; Potton v Spalding; Stotfold v Boston; Wellingborough v S and L Corby.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Boldmere St Michaels v Brierley Hill; Chasetown v Rushall; Hinckley Athletic v Halesowen Harr; Paget v Barwell; Rocester v Bolehall Swifts; Stapenhill v Pershore; Stratford v Sandwell; West Midlands Police v Shifnal; Willenhall v Knypersley.

SKOL MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Chelmsley v Blorwich; Coleshill v Northfield; Highgate v Kings Heath; Meir KA v Ansells; Olton Royale v Handrahan Timbers; Sherwood Celtic v Shirley. Presidents Cup: Semi-final replay: GPT (Coventry) v Massey Ferguson.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier Division: Bilston v Hill Top; Malvern v Manders; Pelsall Villa v Gornal; Stafford v Lye; Stourport v Blorwich; Tividale v Blakenall; Walsall Wood v Ettingshall; Wednesfield v Ludlow; Westfields v Cradley.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Arnold v Pickering; Belper Town v Hucknall; Brigg v Denaby; Glasshoughton Welfare v Armthorpe Welfare; Hallam v Lincoln United; Liversedge v Ossett Albion; Maltby MW v North Ferriby; Ossett Town v Pontefract Collieries; Stocksbridge PS v Ashfield; Thackley v Sheffield.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Chester-le-Street v RTM Newcastle; Consett v Seaham Red Star; Ferryhill v Peterlee; Guisborough v Dunston FB; Murton v Durham; Shildon v Northallerton; Tow Law v Hebburn; West Auckland v Billingham; Whitby v Bedlington Terriers.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Portsmouth v West Ham (2.0)

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ballymena v Crusaders; Bangor v Omagh; Carrick v Linfield; Cliftonville v Ards; Glenavon v Distillery; Glentoran v Newry; Larne v Ballyclare; Portadown v Coleraine.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge Utd v Gillingham; Charlton v Millwall; Leyton Orient v Tottenham Hotspur; Queens Park Rangers v Fulham; Southend v Norwich; Watford v Chelsea; West Ham v Portsmouth. Second division: Bournemouth v Luton; Bristol City v Southampton; Swindon v Crystal Palace; Tottenham v Brighton; Wimbledon v Bristol Rovers.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup: Final: Old Foresters v Old Salopians. Premier division: Etonians v Brentwoods; Malvernians v Aldenhamians; Reptonians v Lancing. First division: Ardinians v Cholmeleians; Wellensians v Harrovians; Wykehamists v Haileyburians.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardinal Manning v Old Wilsonians; Chertsey v Old Ignatians; Clapham v Old Hamptonians; Old Aloysians v Old Meadonians; Old Danes v Glyn. Senior first division: Old Kingsburians v Old Tiffinians; Old Salvatorians v Latymer; Old Suttonians v Old Edmontonians; Old Wokingians v Old Isleworthians.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Midland Bank v Norsemen; NatWest Bank v Winchmore Hill; Old Latymerians v Crouch End Vampires; South Bank v East Barnet OG; West Wickham v Old Actonians. Second division: Alexandra Park v Broomfield; Carshalton v Old Westminster Citizens; Lensbury v Kew Association; Old Stationers v Old Parkonians; Polytechnic v Old Parmiterians.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Norsborough v Southgate County; Old Grammarians v Ulysses; Old Owens v Mill Hill Village; St Mary's College v Wilan Wandsworth Borough v Parkfield.

UNIVERSITY MATCH: Oxford v Cambridge (at Craven Cottage, 12.15)

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Kent President Shield. Semi-final: Bromley v Dover (at Biggin Hill, 10.30). Essex Clark Cup: Barking v Basildon (at Dagenham Arena 10.30). London Thornton Trophy: Islington v South London (at Chase Lodge, 10.30). Essex Finch Shield: Havering v Newham (at Westlands, 10.30). Lester Finch Shield. Hackney v Harrow (at Douglas Eyre, 10.30). Jubilee Shield: Plymouth v Bristol (at John Kerto SC, 11.0). Snowdon Cup: Kirkby Knowsley v Sefton (at The Sports Centre, 10.30). Northern Merit. Wigan v Leeds (at Robin Park, 10.30)

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Inter-Services championship

Army v Royal Navy (at Twickenham)

Under-19 international

Scotland v England (at Bridgehaugh, Stirling)

Pilkington Cup

Semi-finals

Harlequins v Bath (3.15)
Leicester v Wasps (2.15)

Courage clubs championship

Second division

Newcastle G v London Scottish

Third division

Bedford v Exeter
Clifton v Blackheath
Otley v Harrogate
Richmond v Rosslyn Park
Rugby v Morley

Fourth division

Askeans v Leeds
Liverpool St Helens v Aspatria
Plymouth v Redruth
Reading v Broughton Park
Rotherham v Havant

Fifth division north

Walsall v Lichfield

Fifth division south

Tabard v High Wycombe

Pilkington Shield

Semi-finals

Bedford Queens v Kingsbridge (at Bristol, 2.30)
North Shields v St Albans (at Harrogate, 2.30)

Heineken League

Kick-off 2.30

First division

Cardiff v Dunvant
Llanelli v Bridgend
Neath v Abertillery
Pontypool v Newbridge
Swansea v Pontypridd
Treorchy v Newport

Second division

Abercynon v Aberavon
Bonymaen v Tenby Utd
Cross Keys v Ebbw Vale
Llanharan v South Wales Police
Maesteg v Penarth
Narberth v Llandovery

THIRD DIVISION: Blaina v Blackwood, Builth Wells v Kenfig Hill, Caerphilly v Mountain Ash, Pontypool United v Glamorgan Wanderers, Tredegar v Aberavon Quins, Ystradgynlais v Tondu.

McEwan's League

First division

Dundee HSFP v Currie

Second division

Gordonians v Edinburgh Acads

Insurance Corporation League

Kick-off 2.30

First division

Blackrock College v Sunday's Well
Cork Constitution v Old Wesley
Lansdowne v St Mary's College
Shannon v Instonians
Young Munster v Dungannon

SECOND DIVISION: Ballymena v Malone, Bective Rangers v Old Crescent, Greystones v University College Dublin, Old Belvedere v Dolphin.

CLUB MATCHES: Berry Hill v Newbury, Birmingham/Solihull v Leamington, Coventry v Bristol, Kendal v Tynedale, London Irish v Basingstoke, London Welsh v Saracens, Lydney v Worcester, Nottingham v Middlesbrough, Nuneaton v Camp Hill, Orrell v Moseley, Preston Grasshoppers v Durham City, Sale v Wakefield, Sheffield v Vale of Lune, Sudbury v North Walsham, Winnington Park v Chester.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup

Semi-final

Leeds v Featherstone (at Elland Road, 3.0)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Askam v Chorley (2.30). Dudley Hill v Egremont; Hemel Hempstead v Heworth.

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: Sixth round: Hensingham v Skirlaugh; Leigh East v Millom; Mayfield v Halton Simms Cross; Siddal v Barrow Island; Thornhill v Ellenborough; West Bowling v Walnut Warriors; West Hull v Saddleworth; Woolston v York Acorn.

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Cannock v Havant (Morris Ground, 2.30). Reading v Old Loughtonians (Sonning Lane, 2.0). Second division: Hampstead and Westminster v St Albans (Paddington Recreation Ground, 1.0). Isca v Neston (Exeter School, 2.0).

CLUB MATCHES: Bristol v Bath Buccaneers, Brooklands v Stourport, Winchester v City of Portsmouth, Cambridge City v Blueharts; Cheltenham v Cardiff Athletic, Dulwich v Canterbury, Ealing v Woking, Exeter v Exmouth, Guildford v Southampton, Tauntonians; Hemel Hempstead v West Witney; Old Loughtonians v St Albans, Sheffield v Crimson Ramblers; Trojans v Bracknell.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONALS: England Under-21 v Scotland Under-21 (10.0); England (seniors) v South Africa Under-21 (at Bisham Abbey, 2.0)

WOMENS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP. North (at Liverpool): Durham v Sheffield League, Humberside v Northumberland, Manchester League v Cumbria, LCL v Yorkshire, Lancs v Cheshire. West (at Bournemouth): Dorset v Cornwall, Somerset v Devon, Dorset v Glos, Hereford v Devon, Cornwall v Somerset.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Hemel v Manchester (7.30), Sunderland v Worthing (7.30), Thames Valley v Derby (8.0)

LACROSSE: North of England League. First division: Ashton v Sale, Mellor v Cheadle; Old Waconians v Stockport, Poynton v Heaton Mersey, Timperley v Sheffield Steelers

MOTOR SPORT: British touring car championship (Donington Park).

ROWING: University Boat Race (Putney to Mortlake, 2.30)

SNOOKER: British Open (Plymouth)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Coca-Cola Cup Final

Bolton Wanderers v Liverpool (at Wembley, 5.0)

FA Carling Premiership

Man Utd v Leeds (2.0)
Southampton v Tottenham (11.30)

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Bashley v Bury Town; Havant v Weston-super-Mare. Dr Martens Cup: Final, first leg: Hastings v Leek.

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Inter Cardiff v Newtown.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Saltash v Calne

CENTENARY CELEBRATION MATCH: Norsemen v Middlesex Wanderers (at Edmonton Sports Club).

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Cork v Dundalk, Derry v St Patrick's Athletic (3.15).

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Quarter-final: Shamrock v Sligo (3.15)

RUGBY UNION

Club match

Fylde v Manchester (at Preston Grasshoppers, 3.0)

SURREY COUNTY CUP: Final: Old Blues v Camberley (at London Irish, 3.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Stones Bitter Championship

First division

Bradford v Doncaster
Sheffield v Salford (3.15)
St Helens v Wakefield
Wigan v Halifax
Workington v Widnes

Second division

Barrow v Batley (2.30)
Dewsbury v Rochdale
Huddersfield v Carlisle (3.30)
Hunslet v Whitehaven (3.30)
Leigh v Keighley
London Broncos v Hull KR
Ryedale York v Bramley (12.30)
Swinton v Highfield

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Cannock v Firebrands (Morris Ground, 2.30); East Grinstead v Teddington (Saint Hill, 2.0), Havant v Surbiton (Havant College, 2.15); Hull v Bournville (Orchard Park, 2.0). Old Loughtonians v Southgate (Chigwell, 1.30). Stourport v Reading (Kidderminster School, 2.30); Trojans v Guildford (Stoneham Lane, 1.0). Second division: Doncaster v Barford Tigers (Bennetthorpe, 12.30), Neston v St Albans (Raby Park, 2.0). Richmond v Hampstead and Westminster (Teddington School, 2.0)

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Wales Under-21 v Bath Buccaneers (at Cardiff)

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Scotland Under-21 v South Africa Under-21 (10.0); England (seniors) v England Under-21 (at Bisham, 10.0)

WELSH CUP: Quarter-finals: BSC v Cardiff Athletic, Buckley v Llanelli; Newtown v Haverfordwest; Swansea v Penarth

WOMENS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Midlands (at Coventry). North (at Liverpool); South (at Bracknell): West (at Bournemouth)

BASKETBALL

Budweiser League

Birmingham v Sunderland (6.0)
Chester v Manchester (6.0)
Doncaster v Sheffield (5.30)
Leopards v London (5.0)

ATHLETICS

LONDON: NutraSweet London Marathon (start in Greenwich Park, elite women, BAF and AAA women's championship, 9.0; elite men, BAF and AAA championships, mass start, veterans and first-timers, 9.30)

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Manchester Unity national indoor championships (Melton Mowbray).

CYCLING: Tour of the Fens pro-am 135 kilometres (Burwell, 10.0); Nelson Wheeler's Hilly 50 miles (Ingleton)

LACROSSE: North of England League: First division: Sale v Stockport.

MOTOR SPORT: British touring car championship (Donington Park).

SNOOKER: British Open (Plymouth)

Saturday Portrait: Bruce Rioch, by David Miller

Articulate Wanderer who speaks volumes for the passing game

ILLUSTRATION: STEVE MARTIN



Childhood ineradicably shapes us. Looking at Bruce Rioch, and at the way much of football is floundering amid indiscipline, you cannot help feeling that the game would have benefited from more fathers who were regimental sergeant majors.

Rioch's father was in the Scots Guards, his mother from Skye. Between them they bred in their son, by inheritance and upbringing, that blend of discipline and consideration that once made the British good leaders and administrators. And football managers. In his ten years in management with Middlesbrough, Millwall and Bolton Wanderers, the last of whom he leads out at Wembley tomorrow for the Coca-Cola Cup final against Liverpool, Rioch has been distinguished by his firm but sensitive handling of players. It is the quality that Brian Clough possessed behind the scenes, the difference being that Rioch does not so readily make an ass of himself in public.

The man who took Bolton to promotion from the second division (formerly the third) in his first season, 1992-93, believes in short haircuts, punctuality, uniform dress, courtesy and family life. He rarely signs unmarried players. Bolton supporters, queuing for cup tickets in the car park at Burnden Park, are greeted by players serving cups of tea. "One lump or two?" Jason McAteer, the midfield player valued at £2 million, inquires.

Rioch's contradiction, of course, was that while he scored over 120 goals from midfield with Luton, Aston Villa, Derby and Everton, and captained Scotland in their notoriously ragged World Cup campaign of 1978, he was often flagrantly illegal with his tackling. Nowadays he finds recollection of that an embarrassment.

During the period in which he took Middlesbrough from the point of liquidation and the old third division to the first, between 1986 and 1989, he once said: "I'd rather not talk about the part I sometimes played in the bad days [the Seventies], because I don't want to see my kids here doing it. That's because it's wrong and a manager has an obligation to ensure that the game is played right. I believe in the old push-and-run of Spurs in the Fifties and Sixties."

Born, because of his father's itinerant military life, in Aldershot in 1947, Rioch spent his formative years watching Blanchflower and company on the White Hart Lane terraces, where the feel for technique merged with his father's benevolent discipline and the studious games of draughts they played together; and from which the son learnt the tactical art of deception and surprise.

Although he has never said so, as far as I know, Rioch probably modelled himself on Dave Mackay. There was the same lethal shot, the same tenacity in physical challenge. Mackay twice broke his leg. Rioch, on the other hand, constantly endangered the limbs of others. There are those in the game today who consider his excesses when a player worse than anything among his Leeds United contemporaries.

> 'There is the same wide-eyed look of respect from his players that Clough inspired'

Derby County's exhilarating league championship of 1975, in which Rioch scored 21 goals, came 12 months too late to propel him into the Scotland World Cup side of 1974, although he went on to win 24 caps. By 1978, however, Rioch was 31 and losing his pace. Only the captaincy secured his position against the challenge from the younger Souness and Macari; he was overrun by Cubillas in the opening defeat by Peru.

The Derby legacy, however, was as ingrained in his football soul as his father's draughts. Clough's notice on the dressing-room wall — "the biggest crime in football is to give the ball to the opposition" — would be copied when he became a manager. Transition had its difficulties. Player-coach and then player-manager at Torquay, from 1980 to 1984, he resigned following an undignified and uncharacteristically ill-tempered dispute with a player, Colin Anderson. Yet the moral streak had been evident in his unequivocal rejection of a proposal, by cash-hungry directors, to introduce "gentlemen's evenings", with blue films and strippers.

The shadow of the strict military background is always there, evident in the tight, small knot in his silk tie and white collar at formal occasions, the slightly clipped Aldershot accent that sounds unfamiliar from a Scotland captain. Yet the family tone is entrenched: not just in the car park cuppa, but in the man-management style of, say, Lawrie McMenemy.

Players who want to be with their wives for the birth of their children, or back home because of family illnesses, are excused matches. If you bully your sons, he reasons, sooner or later they will leave home. This affinity with the dressing-room, and with the supporters' interests, earns him widespread respect. You suspect that Nat Lofthouse, the club president, legendary England centre forward and hero of Bolton's last cup triumph of note, against the stricken post-Munich Manchester United in 1958, is in danger of losing his position of "Mr Bolton Wanderers".

Rioch's transformation of Bolton is beyond the directors' wildest dreams. Having had an average attendance of 6,000 in the old third division, they now take that many to some away matches. No wonder the players almost eat out of his hand. At an open-day press conference this week, there was the same wide-eyed look of respectful schoolboys from his players that Clough used to command.

When Rioch talks about producing successful teams, it is not with the common clichés of belief-in-themselves, tight-at-the-back, and so on, but in more fundamental aspects of man-management that apply to any progressive organisation: stability, flexibility, concentration on praise rather than criticism, attention to players' families. I hear in him an echo of the great managers of my time: Busby, Ramsey, Stein, Revie (in whom there was such a conflict of principle) and Paisley.

Rioch is reluctant to talk about Liverpool, concerning the encounter tomorrow, refusing to concede anything to their experience. The attitude will be no different. Bolton playing their own game. They will not be seeking Wimbledon's expedient, spoiling tactics of the 1988 FA Cup Final. "We've won at all levels playing football," Rioch said. "This has the makings of an excellent final." He speaks with confidence.

Together with his coach, Colin Todd, that exemplary Derby and England centre back, Rioch is adamant on the policy of articulate, flexible play. The two of them have been together, for the most part, since he enticed Todd away from a secure job to join him at Middlesbrough in 1986, training with borrowed balls on borrowed pitches. They have come a long way together in ten years.

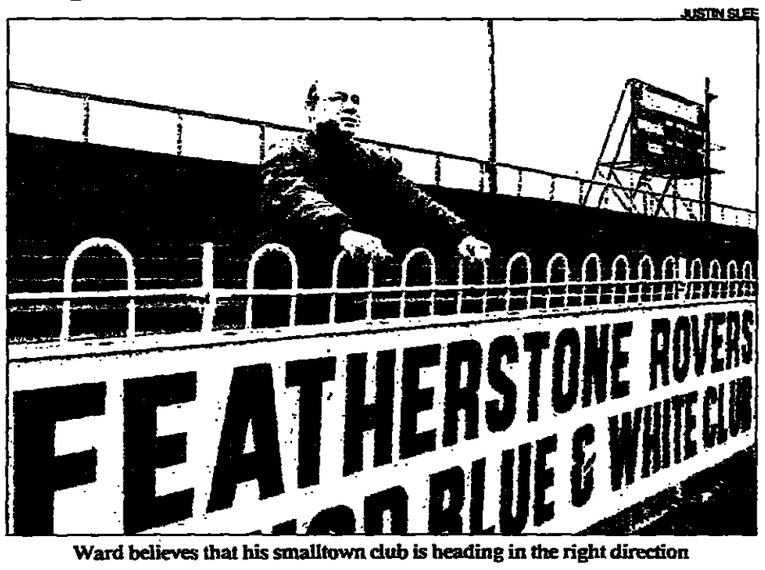
"We've moved quickly in 18 months with Bolton," Rioch said. "I'd like to see the elimination of the fear that leads the English to play in such a hectic manner." More like Liverpool, in fact, or the Tottenham double team. Bolton, too, are chasing a double. Should they win promotion, which is feasible, it must be doubtful if the club can hold Rioch when his contract expires this summer. Inevitably, he is being linked with Highbury. That would be a twist — a Hampshire Scot bringing integrity back to Arsenal. Maybe Lofthouse is, after all, secure as Mr Big.

Coach sizes up Leeds as Rovers seek Wembley return

Big thoughts fill Ward's small world

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

JUSTIN SLEE



Ward believes that his smalltown club is heading in the right direction

SMALL, in the case of Featherstone (pop. 14,000), is beautiful, which is why its description as a set of traffic lights between Wakefield and Pontefract once had the lynch-mob in pursuit of a correspondent from Leeds, Rovers' big-city rivals at Elland Road today in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final.

A slicker-cum bumpkin, David Ward, the coach of "Fev", knows what it is like to lift the most famous rugby league prize — in 1977 and 1978 with Leeds. Under Peter Fox, another loquacious Yorkshireman, Featherstone triumphed in 1973 and, remarkably, at Hull's expense, ten years later. They are overdue another Wembley day out.

"Smallness is Featherstone's strength, everyone being on top of one another, rallying round; but it's also its weakness, too. When good it's good and bad it's bad," Ward said. "I've told people I can't do anything about the result, except ensure everything leading up to the game is geared right: then we'll see."

When Ward speaks, it pays to listen, provided you can stand the decibel level: on players' agents — "leeches preying on the weak"; full-time professional players — "even the most stone-barmy rugby league nut needs something else to think about" — and the influx of Australians — "some were brilliant, others bled clubs dry.

In a village long since deprived of its pit, Ward's no-nonsense philosophy has struck a chord, not least in a resurgent team. Under Steve Martin, an Australian of the percentage rugby school, the patience of even the diehards was stretched. It took Ward three months, after two years pulling Batley up by the bootstraps, but eight wins in nine games is some form.

Ward's verbal directness is reminiscent of his Leeds and Great Britain days as a balding bullet of a hooker: "Coaches must be a breed apart. Strong, disciplined, single-minded, never fearful of failure. You've got to believe in yourself, even when it seems to be going wrong."

With players of the calibre of Divet, the French second-row forward, Aston, Tuuta and Molloy, an inspired choice as captain, it was a case of building confidence and mutual respect. "This is a better team than when I arrived — one going in the right direction," Ward said.

As to Leeds's recent tendency to freeze on the big occasion, and successive defeats last month that effectively cost them the championship, Ward, who also coached Leeds for two seasons prior to Doug Laughton's arrival in 1991, is dismissive. "Their losses to Sheffield and St Helens, couldn't have come at a worse time for us. Leeds are the greatest club, with one objective now, but at least we don't have that pressure on us," he said.

"I could motivate my lads too far, show them my medals, flip them and they'd play with heart instead of head, a bit like Foreman did against Ali. Ali stood there taking it all. George worked himself to a pulp. Then, ding: goodnight."

And should Smallville beat Metropolis? "Improving individuals and making the team successful are uppermost priorities," Ward said, "but if I get to lead them out at Wembley, well, it would be marvellous for everyone."

LEEDS: A Tait, J Fallon, K Iro, C Innes, F Cummins; G Schofield, G Holroyd; H Howard, J Lowes, E Farrell, G Mercer, R Eyres. E Harkley. Subs. G Mann, N Harmon
FEATHERSTONE ROVERS: C Gibson; I Butt, B Rodger, M Calland, D Hughes; B Tuuta, M Aston; S Molloy, G Southernwood, L Casey, D Divet, G H Price. N Roebuck. Subs. M Nixon, J Nadale.
Referee: D Campbell (St Helens)

Goalkeeping tale that should run and run



SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

THE award for the Colombian goalie of the week goes to — no, not René Higuita, former jailbird and old friend of this column. Greetings instead to Miguel Calero, whose brilliance and style kept Deportivo Cali on top of the Colombian championship.

The score was 1-1, the match against Pereira 88 minutes old, and the opposition forwards broke away and bore down on Calero's goal. Did Calero intervene? Did he save the day? No. Much better. He charged from his goal, went for the interception rather than the tackle, made it, dribbled the ball in a slalom run through the Pereira players, charged into the opposition half and let fly with his left foot. Goal: Deportivo win 2-1 and stay a point clear of Atlético Nacional in the championship.

With this one moment, Calero joins the pantheon of great Latin American goalies: Higuita, Jorge Campos, the Mexican with the demented surfer shirts, and José Luis Chilavert, of Paraguay, who recently scored (for Vélez Sarsfield, of Argentina) with a 30-yard free kick.

First centurion

Break an embargo? Me? Perish the thought. Otherwise, I might have revealed the greatest treat in the 1995 *Wisden*: the fact that Nalliah Sellathurai has become the first batsman in history to score a century in Hanoi, the Vietnam capital. He was playing for an Indian subcontinent side against an Anglo-Australian alliance on a matting wicket. Results of this column's great *Wisden* competition next week.

Redneck peril

Slice him where you will, a redneck is always a redneck. Atlanta is naturally projecting the cosiest and most tolerant of images as it braces itself for the Olympic Games next year, but the redneck tendency just keeps on coming up. Last year Cobb County passed anti-gay legislation and thus lost the site for the Olympic volleyball. Now Fulton County, which contains the city of Atlanta, has seen its commission chairman, Mitch Skandalakis, propose a ban on all athletes who are HIV positive. He said that all Olympic athletes should declare their HIV status before competing. Backtracking after the inevitable uproar, the not-inaptly-named Skandalakis claimed that he was misquoted. Don't they all?

Rare double

I am not sure whether or not this counts as going one better than the aforementioned Calero, but Dave Hudson, goalkeeper for Hendon, scored twice against Grays on Tuesday. Once for each side. The Diadora League match was brought to life by Hudson's first goal, a punt that carried 92 yards. But shortly afterwards, Hudson was foiled by a kick-in, the league's experimental replacement for a throw-in. The ball ricocheted off Hudson and into the net: own goal. The game ended 3-3.



Naked truth

Here is a solemn warning. Don't make jokes. Never make them. Never even attempt it. Marcio Santos, the Brazil World Cup player, moved to Fiorentina, where Vittoria Cecchi Gori, the film producer, is president. Santos said, in his humorous way, that it was a condition of his move that he was introduced to Sharon Stone. Ho-ho.

However, his girlfriend, Karen Matzenbacher, was not amused. And so she arranged an elaborate revenge. She posed naked for a Brazilian men's magazine, which has used her not only on the cover, but also on a poster that the magazine plans to distribute free of charge.

Santos, no doubt in clear receipt of the message "I'll give him Sharon Stone", is in a state of fury. And not making jokes.

All academic

The solution to the woes of English cricket is, of course, to do everything the Australians do, in particular establish a cricket academy. What do they think of that in Australia? There is a growing chorus that a centralised system of elitism is expensive, inflexible and incapable of bringing about the best results.

In short, old-think. Savage criticism has been levelled at the Australian Institute of Sport, established 14 years ago to foster excellence: ie, to bring promising kids to Canberra and force-feed them sport.

"There is ample evidence to suggest that relocating young people is putting them at risk in terms of their social, psychological and educational development," Wally Foreman, the director of the Western Australian Institute of Sport, said. He recommends a more parochial approach based on family support.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Lech	180	340	good	powder	good	fine	1	30/3
(Superb conditions everywhere: all lifts and runs open)								
Obergurgl	60	165	good	varied	good	sun	0	30/3
(Glorious skiing in perfect conditions)								
St Anton	100	520	good	powder	good	fine	0	30/3
(Excellent piste skiing; good weather, resort quiet)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	240	480	good	powder	good	sun	-12	30/3
(Superb skiing; excellent powder at Voujany and Oz)								
Courchevel	215	365	good	varied	good	fine	-5	29/3
(Near-perfect conditions, all lifts and links open)								
La Plagne	255	450	good	varied	good	fine	0	29/3
(Excellent piste conditions; no crowds or lift queues)								
Tignes	225	300	good	varied	good	sun	-2	29/3
(Excellent skiing; plenty of snow; no lift queues)								
SWITZERLAND								
Mürren	145	290	good	varied	good	fair	2	29/3
(Excellent piste skiing everywhere)								
Wengen	90	240	good	varied	good	cloud	-1	30/3
(First-class skiing conditions on well-groomed pistes)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial

Young America flies red flag

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

FOR the second day running, the America's Cup racing seemed of secondary importance to the on-shore conflict over whether the modifications to Dennis Conner's *Stars & Stripes* hull and keel were within the rules in San Diego late on Thursday.

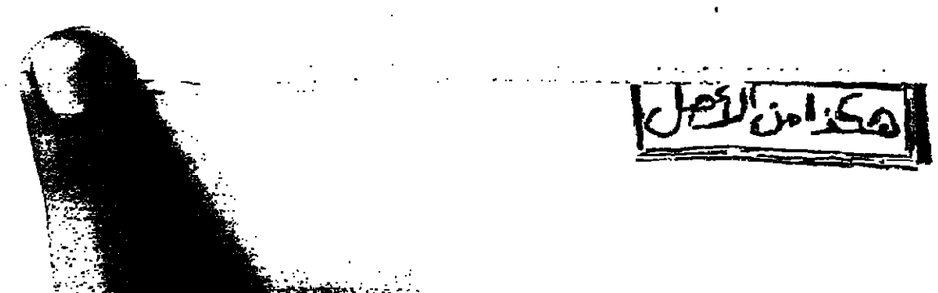
Young America joined *America³* in the dispute, flying its red protest flag at the start of the race against *Stars & Stripes*. *America³* is still awaiting a ruling on its protest, filed on Tuesday and which the international jury began to hear on Wednesday night.

On the challenger side, *oneAustralia* was obliged to sail the course to score a point for a win after *Team New Zealand* withdrew from the race, having already qualified. That "win" keeps *oneAustralia* a point ahead of *TAG Heuer Challenge* as it seeks the remaining place in the challenger elimination final.

TAG Heuer Challenge scored a routine 55-second victory over *Nippon*, which has not gained a point in the semi-final. Yet the most attention was focused on the red flag flying from *Young America's* stern as the boat crossed the line 44 seconds ahead of *Stars & Stripes* on the defender course.

Although the *Young America* team did not initially issue a statement clarifying the details of its protest, a spokesman did say it involved the modifications to *Stars & Stripes*. *America³* questions the authorisation of a replacement keel for *Stars & Stripes*, mid-round. The protest also alleges that the replacement does not meet the rules that require any additions to be of similar design and in a similar position to the one before the changes.

America³, which is one point behind *Stars & Stripes* in its bid to join *Young America* in the defender final, had to win its race late yesterday to stay in the contest. *Stars & Stripes*, however, could be disqualified.



هكذا من الأهرام

Bolton's teamwork to be tested in Coca-Cola Cup Final

Rush goals ignite fire at Anfield

By Peter Ball



Rush in action in his previous Wembley final, when Liverpool beat Sunderland 2-0 to lift the FA Cup in 1992

THERE are few honours that have escaped Ian Rush in his distinguished career. Tomorrow, he will cross another off the list when he leads Liverpool out at Wembley for the first time in the Coca-Cola Cup Final against Bolton Wanderers.

It will be Bolton's first significant cup final since 1958, but in the Eighties, Wembley almost became known as Liverpool's other home ground. Few felt more at home there than Rush, who twice scored two goals in FA Cup Finals, both against Everton.

With six goals on the way to Wembley this season, including the hat-trick at Ewood Park which ended the ambitions of Blackburn Rovers, the Coca-Cola Cup has stirred Rush's interest this season. If, tomorrow afternoon, he can repeat the feat of scoring two goals in finals, he will equal Geoff Hurst's record of 49 goals in the competition, and the cup may be on its way back to its familiar place in the Anfield trophy room, giving Roy Evans a successful first trip to Wembley as manager.

The man charged with stopping Rush and Robbie Fowler, who has scored four times in the competition so far, is Alan Stubbs, the captain of Bolton, who was a disconsolate spectator wearing the blue of Everton on both occasions that Rush scored his two goals.

Stubbs and Jason McAteer, his fellow Merseysider, were the subject of a Liverpool joint bid of £6 million at the beginning of the season. That bid was rejected by Bolton — "I didn't think that £6 million was enough for Stubbs," Bruce Rioch, the Bolton manager, joked this week. Instead, Liverpool bought Phil Babb, who was once awarded a free transfer by Rioch for breaking curfew in his days at Millwall.

If that leaves the opposing central defenders with points to prove, the valuation placed on Stubbs and McAteer indicates that Bolton have players capable of holding their own on a big stage. As well as Stubbs and McAteer, Alan Thompson would also not look out of place at a higher level, while John McGinlay and Mixu Paatelainen, the strikers, have played international football this season.

That should ensure that, unlike Sunderland, another Endsleigh League team and Liverpool's previous opponents (apart from in the Charity Shield) at Wembley — in a disappointing FA Cup Final in 1992 — Bolton will not be overawed, even if Liverpool will start as favourites.

Bolton's win at Anfield in the FA Cup three years ago will also warn Liverpool not to take anything for granted.

"I'm a fan of Bolton Wanderers, I like the way they play their football," Evans said yesterday. "If the game fulfils its promise, it could be a classic."

Like Liverpool, Bolton are a footballing team. "Bolton are a bit like us, they perform well when they perform as a team," Evans said. "When they start getting individual, then, just like us at Liverpool, they don't play as well. What Bruce [Rioch] has built his side round is the team playing as a team."

For all the verve of McAteer, the skills of Thompson and the polish of Stubbs, Bolton's hopes of causing an upset will depend on everyone in the team making important contributions. The ability of Lee, if he plays, to exploit doubts about the left side of the Liverpool defence, of Sneekes and Patterson, if he plays, to contain Barnes and Redknapp will be vital to Bolton's chances, as will the ability of Paatelainen and McGinlay to find spaces either side of Ruddock. After quiet periods in mid season, Sneekes has recovered impressive form, and if he or McAteer can impose themselves on Barnes, Bolton's chances will be worth considering. That may be easier said than done.

So, Bolton's fate against one of the Premiership's leading sides tomorrow depends on the team effort, while their hopes for the future may depend on keeping McAteer, Stubbs and, most important, Rioch. That could come down to their success in ensuring that meeting Liverpool next season does not depend on the vagaries of cup fortune.

The winners tomorrow are guaranteed European football next season; for Bolton, progress in the league is even more important.

WEMBLEY DETAILS

BOLTON WANDERERS	LIVERPOOL
Probable — 4-4-2	*Probable — 3-5-2*
K Branagan — S Green, M Seagraves, A Stubbs, J Phillips — D Lee (or J McAteer), J McAteer (or M Patterson), R Sneekes, A Thompson — J McGinlay, M Paatelainen.	D James — J Scales, N Ruddock, P Babb — R Jones, S McManaman, J Redknapp, J Barnes, S Bjornebye (or M Walters) — I Rush, R Fowler.

PATH TO WEMBLEY: Second round: First leg: Ipswich Town (a) 3-0 (McAteer, McGinlay, Thompson); second leg: 1-0 (Sneekes); 4-0 on aggregate. Third round: Sheffield United (h) 2-1 (Paatelainen, og). *Fourth round: West Ham (a) 3-1 (McGinlay 2, Lee).* Fifth round: Norwich City (h) 1-0 (Lee). Semi-final: First leg: Swindon Town (a) 1-2 (Stubbs), second leg: 3-1 (McAteer, Paatelainen, McGinlay); 4-3 on aggregate.

PATH TO WEMBLEY: Second round: First leg: Burnley (h) 2-0 (Scales, Fowler); second leg: 4-1 (Redknapp 2, Fowler, Clough); 6-1 on aggregate. Third round: Stoke City (h) 2-1 (Rush 2). Fourth round: *Blackburn Rovers (a) 3-1 (Rush 3).* Fifth round: Arsenal (h) 1-0 (Rush). Semi-final: First leg: Crystal Palace (h) 1-0 (Fowler); second leg: 1-0 (Fowler); 2-0 on aggregate.

Hardaker heirs ensure the memory lives on



Rob Hughes
Weekend View

Many people talk of leaving something for their grandchildren to remember them by. Tomorrow, among 80,000 people at Wembley Stadium, the late Alan Hardaker will be represented by two granddaughters in the official presentations that follow the Coca-Cola Cup final. It is his cup and, though he always said he was never interested in monuments, the event has reached its 34th year despite the attempts by senior clubs to kill it at birth.

"It's a joke, it will never get off the ground, it will be buried inside three years," was typical of the cynicism that greeted "Hardaker's folly".

This weekend, when Carol Wilkinson, one of Hardaker's 11 grandchildren, presents the Player of the Match trophy, "the Alan Hardaker Trophy", she will stand beside Sir Stanley Matthews, that other Lancastrian, who will present the Coca-Cola Cup, to which Hardaker declined to put his name. The audience will reach 60 countries. The number of spectators in the stadium will take the total over three decades close to 60 million paying customers and, from the old administrator's point of view, £120 million has now been gathered by his creation. Some folly.

And when the two sisters, Carol, 20, a physical education student and Susan, 23, like Hardaker a civil servant, take their seats, it will be in Row D of the Royal Box. "I watched last season when grandpa's trophy was being handed to a player by somebody I didn't know," Carol explained. "I decided to write to the League, telling them I would love to do it — for grandpa and for myself."

Hardakers to the end: and the League never could resist a Hardaker. In fact the woman who presented last year's award, Penny Hughes, was rather important to the competition in her own right. She is president of the sponsor, Coca-Cola Great Britain.

Carol is less than apologetic. Her personality can be as blunt as, if less acerbic than, her grandpa. She intends to meet as many players and officials as she can. "Some, like Robbie Fowler and Jamie Redknapp, are even younger than me .. they probably don't even know who grandpa was." She used to play football, a vigorous half back in her school team, though denied the opportunity of playing against other schools who did not go for girls on the field. And, though she will try to present herself as neutral, Liverpool was her team when she avidly followed the professional game, Peter Beardsley her idol, John Barnes not far behind.

Whoever meets her in the banquet hall at Wembley, or on the Football League coach that takes the personnel down from Lytham St Annes today, had better refrain from disparaging Alan Hardaker.

One noted person in the game did that sometime ago to Susan. "He called grandpa a plonker," recalls the elder sister. "I was stuck for words. I'll probably take plenty of tissues to Wembley, because all the memories that will flood in will affect me. But our Carol is never on the defensive, she's really quick with words, and anyone who says anything bad about grandpa will get an earful."

Their mother, Janet, one of four daughters of the old "Lytham dictator" smiles at the image of attrition that has lingered so long after his death 15 years ago. He had joked, time and again, that he had been a failure in life; that having four daughters torpedoed his intention to breed a half back line for the club for which he played as an amateur Hull City.

And in the warmth of their family home at Fleetwood, north of Blackpool, one can feel the softer side that Hardaker hid from his enemies. The girls remember his generosity. In the home that Hardaker kept across the forecourt from the League headquarters, the home to which he escaped after banging heads together in the name of the League, he would always be looking for as many of the grandchildren as would be there. He lured them with 11 glass jars in a cupboard in the kitchen: each week these contained 20p pocket money for each grandchild. But they had to come to collect it.

"Dad would be thrilled to bits to see Carol and Susan in the Royal Box," said Janet, "he might even forgive me for producing more girls."

Time, they say, mellows men. Perhaps it even mellows the memory of a man like Hardaker who, relishing a verbal spat with anyone, always considered himself to be on the side of the game. And when Janet's sister, Lesley, asked if Carol had arranged to present his trophy by ringing Jim'll Fix It, Janet responded: "No, she went higher than that. She went to the League." And, Carol admitted, it had to be a Dear Sir letter. She had not known the name of the secretary of the Football League.



Hardaker's granddaughters, Carol, left, and sister Susan. Carol will present Player of the Match trophy

Fortune favours Dalglish

By Peter Ball

THE news of Eric Cantona's reprieve from prison yesterday gave Manchester United a good start to the weekend. It will get even better if Everton can halt Blackburn Rovers' relentless march at Goodison Park this afternoon, which would enable United to go top by beating Leeds United at Old Trafford tomorrow.

A month ago, having hindered United by beating them 1-0 at Goodison, Everton, who still need points to keep clear of the bottom four, might have been fancied to help United by beating Blackburn. But, as well as maintaining imposing form, Blackburn are having that little bit of fortune champions get and they face an Everton side with five players missing through suspension, including Daniel Amokachi, the Nigerian forward, and Duncan Ferguson, the Scottish striker.

"Ferguson being out is helpful but it might not make our job any easier," Kenny Dalglish, the Blackburn manager, said yesterday. "Amokachi will come in and he has a point to prove." It will be Amokachi's first start since Everton greeted the arrival of their manager, Joe Royle with a 2-0 win over Liverpool in October.

Blackburn have their problems, too, with Jason Wilcox out and Graeme Le Saux and Alan Shearer facing late fitness tests. The loss of Shearer — "the best goalscorer in Europe," according to Richard Witschge, his new team-mate, and Royle — would be grievous.

So, not so long ago, would have been the loss of Wilcox and Le Saux, but Dalglish has strengthened his squad shrewdly and he now has more than adequate cover. Jeff Kenna made a satisfactory debut against Chelsea while Witschge, the Holland midfield player who is on loan from Bordeaux, could replace Wilcox with equal aplomb.

With the FA Carling Premiership title as the prize, it could prove the signing of the season. Like all Dutch players, Witschge does not lack confidence or certainty. "Somebody called and asked me if I would like to play at Blackburn for two months," Witschge said yesterday. "I said: 'Yes, I would like to come here and win the English league.'" Shades of Cantona, when he joined Leeds.



Amokachi: suspended

Leeds return to Old Trafford, where they lost in the FA Cup, with Tony Yeboah now established and scoring goals regularly. United will have Andy Cole, who missed that game, but are without Lee Sharpe and Steve Bruce, who are both supended.

With Parker suffering a knock in training, making his return to action this season look problematic, Roy Keane plays at centre-half for only the second time in his United career.

At the other end of the table, West Ham United are without a match, which gives Crystal Palace and Southampton the chance to take an important step towards safety. Southampton play Tottenham Hotspur at The Dell tomorrow and Manchester City visit Crystal Palace today believing that a win will see them out of danger.

Bergara joins casualty list

By Russell Kempson

DANNY Bergara became the 41st managerial casualty this season when Stockport County, the Endsleigh Insurance League second division club, terminated his contract yesterday. Born in Uruguay, he was the first South American to manage in England, when he took over at Rochdale seven years ago. He succeeded Asa Hartford at Edgeley Park in April 1989.

Stockport reached Wembley four times under Bergara's guidance, losing twice in the Autoglass Trophy final and twice in end-of-season play-off finals. His tactical expertise and endearing linguistic mix of Spanish and English, often coarsely delivered, made him one of football's most colourful characters. However, Stockport have struggled in mid-table this season, unable to recover from the sale of Andy Preece and Kevin Francis, their leading goalscorers, and Bergara was dismissed after an alleged altercation with Brendan Elwood, the club chairman, at an evening function in the town on Wednesday. "Mr Bergara's position as manager has become untenable," a club statement said.

Bergara, who refused to comment on the claims, said: "It is sad news after six great years of continuous achievement and success, building great foundations at the club in most departments. I can hold my head high."

The future of Doncaster Rovers, of the third division, was still in the balance yesterday. Rovers officials had threatened to resign from the Football League, if Doncaster council did not confirm its plans to relocate the club from its dilapidated Belle Vue ground, but Peter Welsh, leader of the local authority, said: "A formal decision over the matter would have to be agreed by a properly constituted committee of the council, which cannot possibly be convened at short notice."

Sunderland, the first division club, was fined £2,500 for fielding Dominic Matteo — an unregistered defender, on loan from Liverpool — in the 2-0 defeat against Barnsley. It had feared a points deduction. Oxford take on Cambridge in the University match at Craven Cottage today.

Agassi gives US early advantage

ANDRE AGASSI beat Andrea Gaudenzi to give the United States a 1-0 lead in their Davis Cup world group tennis quarter-final against Italy in Palermo yesterday. Agassi, the world No 2, won 6-4, 6-4, 6-1 in a match interrupted by rain for 90 minutes.

The rain returned to force postponement of the second singles match pitting the world No 1, Pete Sampras, against Renzo Furlan. It was rescheduled for this morning.

In Utrecht, Holland took a surprising 1-0 lead over Germany when Paul Haarhuis beat Boris Becker in straight sets but Michael Stich levelled the tie with a four-set victory over Richard Kracijek. Russia and South Africa shared the opening-day singles in Moscow while Sweden led Austria 1-0 in Vaxjo.

Doohan leads

Motorcycling: Michael Doohan took provisional pole position with a lap record during the first qualifying session for the 500cc Malaysian Grand Prix tomorrow.

Doohan raced his Repsol Honda round the Shah Alam track in a time of 1min 25.059sec, breaking John Kocinski's 1991 record of 1:25.100.

Game pledge

Rugby league: Doncaster will fulfil their championship fixture at Bradford Northern tomorrow, despite reports of a players' boycott because of a disagreement over match payments by the administrators, who have agreed a purchase by Kingstock Holdings, owners of Doncaster's ground. Tony Fisher, the club's former coach, has succeeded Norman Smith, who has resigned as coach of Dewsbury.

Karl Fairbank, Bradford's Great Britain forward, has been banned for two matches for a head-high tackle on Ellery Hanley, of Leeds, and David Stephenson, of Oldham, also for two games, for tripping Va'aiga Tuigamala, of Wigan.

WE'RE BEHIND THE WINNERS.

Good luck to both crews from the auditors of Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

KPMG means business

SPORT



Oxford take to the Thames yesterday for their final practice before the 141st Boat Race from Putney to Mortlake today. The race starts at 2.30. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Oxford start Boat Race underdogs as Cambridge chase treble

Topolski aims to break spell

By David Miller

FAR FROM being an anachronistic private paddle on the Thames, the Boat Race has become a global sporting event. It reaches a television audience in excess of 250 million in 160 countries, which exceeds any Olympic or world championship rowing race. Today's 141st contest, despite featuring a record ten foreign rowers, has a particularly compelling appeal.

The rowing fraternity, and many with no more than a passing, peripheral interest, wait to see whether Dan Topolski can revive his own legend. Has the guru of Oxford's ten successive victories from 1976 to 1985, and most notably of the triumph over internal American mutiny in 1987, turned a dead-beat crew of three months ago into a unit capable of defeating Cambridge's fancied, powerful, and experienced eight?

The legend has many facets. Topolski, now 49, was the lightest man to row in the Boat Race for 20 years in 1967, and allegedly has never wholly lost his anger at defeat in his second contest the following year. As a coach, he is a strange mixture: of academic logic and wilful aggression, of almost casual charisma and frenetic inspiration. Somehow, he has come through every crisis, smelling of roses, winning some races to which Oxford had no right.

> 'I was wary. Yet Dan has brought a determination and focus'

While Penny Chuter is head coach, Topolski, as director is, so the intention goes, a cross between Field Marshal Montgomery and Merlin. Jeremiah McLanahan, Oxford's American president and post-graduate from Yale, says: "I was wary [of his recall]. Yet Dan has brought a determination and focus. He would be a great coach in any sport."

Was Topolski right to come back? Two consecutive defeats by Cambridge, that last year by one of the best crews of all time, provoked McLanahan to send the summons. Seldom, during his previous spell of 15 years, has Topolski been faced with what seemed in the autumn and even through to the New Year, such an unequal task. Friends tell him he is as frenetic now as ever.

"We know we are underdogs," Topolski said this week, outwardly unperturbed. "We started with only one man from a previous Blues race and no internationals. Nothing but big hearts and lungs. We worked quite hard, and come from a long way behind." Still smiling, he jumped into the launch for the umpires' instructional test run down this unique course of tidal currents with the coxes.

If Topolski's impact on Oxford's international motley — four Americans, plus a Canadian, Yugoslav and Norwegian — is one imponderable, another is the choice of cox. Abbie Chapman is, at 19, the youngest on either boat, a schools champion and women's Head of the River champion. Will she be equal to the occasion?

On the other hand, Russell Slatford, dropped by Cambridge near to race-day last year, has been preferred to Mark Davies, whose Tideway experience was widely considered superior. Slatford was worryingly pushed around in the recent trial race against Nottingham University. There are some close to Cambridge who wonder if his nerve will hold today, should there be a clashing of oars round the Fulham Bend in the early battle to win the inside track.

Since speculation is that Topolski will prefer the Middlesex station and Cambridge go for Surrey, whatever the toss, there may well be a psychological as well as physical duel for the strongest part of the stream over the first mile and a half. Thus Chapman versus Slatford could be the story of the race, rather than whether Topolski has found a formula and rhythm to match Cambridge's acknowledged superiority.

Given that Cambridge have four men from previous victories and impressive Olympic and world championship experience, in theory there should be no contest, never mind Oxford's improvement, and irrespective of starting position. If Cambridge find that elusive perfect rhythm, that has been there at times in training, they will take an early lead and remain untroubled.

"We're buoyant, tails up, the boat's been going fast," Richard Phelps, the Cambridge president and No 2, said. He is not preoccupied with the start. "The station you *get* is the station you want," is his rationalised attitude. He recognises well enough that Oxford have become a serious challenge, but has been looking significantly unflustered during the countdown.

Oxford know that they have to perform above potential and, probably, Cambridge below if it is to be close. Harry Mahon, Cambridge's finishing coach from New Zealand, this week switched Parish and Brownlee in the engine room. His opinion is that Cambridge are at least as good as two years ago.

McLanahan has been something of an introspective president, so Oxford have needed Topolski's animation. McLanahan stresses, perhaps too much, the workload Oxford have endured. Out of all that work, can Merlin work the spell? Or, as he oversimplifies it, "put together a system in which they feel confident."

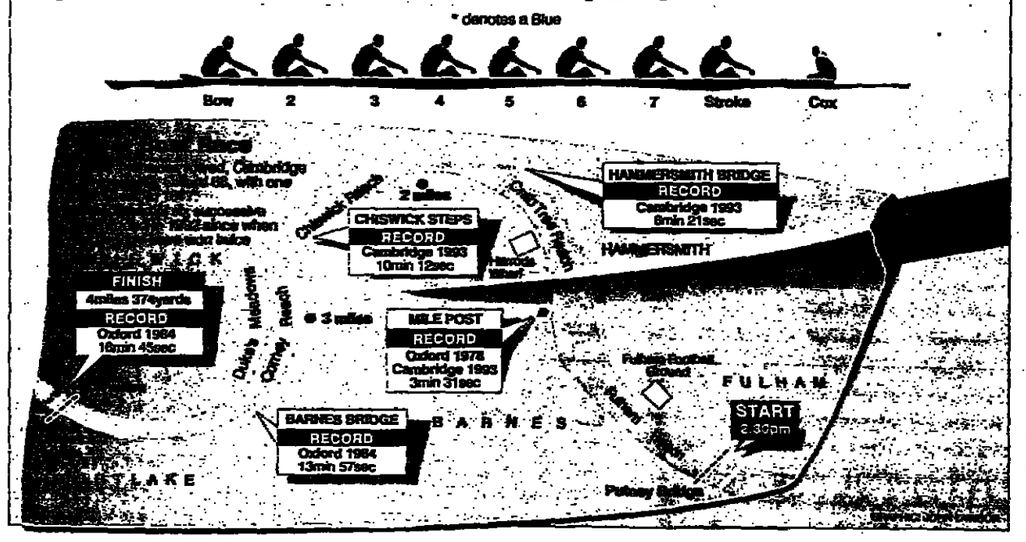
Few would question Topolski's ability to turn selling-platers into champions, but the verdict must be that his comeback will probably prove to be one race too many.

Fair weather, page 1
Photograph, page 20

THE BOAT RACE CREWS

	OXFORD		CAMBRIDGE
Bow	J R W Kawaja (Upper Canada College, Princeton, US, and Mansfield) Age: 23. Height: 6ft 3in. Weight: 13st 9½lb		*R D Taylor (Shrewsbury and Trinity Hall) Age: 21. Height: 6ft 3in. Weight: 14st 4lb
2	G A Rosengren (Vallejo Senior HS, US, Harvard and New College) Age: 23. Height: 6ft 1in. Weight: 14st 3lb		*R C Phelps (Latymer Upper School and St Edmunds) Age: 29. Height: 6ft 5in. Weight: 14st 1lb
3	*B Mavra (Matematicka Gimnazija, Belgrade, Imperial College, London and Jesus) Age: 25. Height: 6ft 5in. Weight: 14st 13lb		S B Newton (Radley College and Emmanuel) Age: 24. Height: 6ft 3in. Weight: 14st 10lb
4	L S T Reed (St Marks School, US, Princeton and St Catherines) Age: 25. Height: 6ft 4in. Weight: 15st 5lb		S A Brownlee (St Bedes College, Christchurch, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, NZ, and St Edmunds) Age: 26. Height: 6ft 6in. Weight: 14st 8lb
5	J B McLanahan (Middlesex School, Massachusetts, Yale and Pembroke) Age 25. Height: 6ft 5in. Weight: 14st 1½lb		*D E Bangert (Deutschhaus Gymnasium Wurzburg, University of Wurzburg and St John's) Age: 27. Height: 6ft 2in. Weight: 13st
6	H S Corroon (Salisbury School, Harvard, Munich University and Keble) Age: 28. Height: 6ft 3in. Weight: 14st 2lb		*M W H Parish (Eton College, University of London and St Edmunds) Age: 23. Height: 6ft 4in. Weight: 14st 7lb
7	*D R H Clegg (Radley, University College London and Keble) Age: 24. Height: 6ft 3in. Weight: 14st 6½lb		M Banovic (School of Applied Arts, Zagreb, Croatia, North Eastern University, Boston, US and St Edmunds) Age: 27. Height: 6ft 4in. Weight: 14st 12lb
Stroke	J-I Throndsen (Drammen Gymnasium, Norway, UCLA and St Peters) Age: 23. Height: 6ft 2in. Weight: 14st½lb		M P C Barnett (Harrogate GS and Queens) Age: 21. Height: 6ft 2in. Weight: 13st 7lb
Cox	A C Chapman (Lady Eleanor Holles and St Hildas) Age: 19. Height: 4ft 10in. Weight: 7st 1lb		R S Slatford (KCS, Wimbledon, Hatfield College, Durham and Hughes Hall) Age: 25. Height: 5ft 7in. Weight: 8st 1½lb

* denotes a Blue



Tide flows Light Blue way

CAMBRIDGE have the prestigious line-up and the form to justify their favouritism for the Boat Race (Mike Rosewell writes). The Light Blues have five senior internationals to Oxford's none, four old Blues, all winners, to Oxford's two (one winner and one loser) and their lesser-known rowers have apprenticed in winning Goldie crews.

Under Robin Williams, their chief coach, Cambridge have undertaken less pre-race public competition than Oxford but have emerged unscathed. They beat a Dutch crew from Nereus, with five world medallists, with ease and then Nottingham County's top lightweight eight, full of internationals, twice.

Penny Chuter, Oxford's chief coach, has blooded her crew more frequently, but in toughening less experienced personnel has had few wins. They lost to London University twice and Imperial College and shared the honours with London's first VIII.

There might be chinks in Cambridge's armour. In one race against Nottingham County they struggled under pressure and their bladework has looked ragged on occasions this week. There have been positional changes and Brownlee's sickness, although the New Zealander No 4 says he will be fit. Oxford have closed the gap, particularly in the last two weeks, and Cambridge are aware of it. Williams said his crew must be "comfortable with the situation of rowing side-by-side", an unexpected comment until a month ago.

Oxford looked sharper in short bursts yesterday than Cambridge but the moment of truth today will come after three minutes. Cambridge's rhythm may have been lacking this week but their experienced core is likely to avoid panic under the expected early assault from Oxford, whose shorter stroke will become a liability as the race unfolds.

Statisticians take issue with Wisden

Simon Wilde discovers that earlier editions of 'cricket's bible' may not be completely reliable

It is not only the citizens of the Chinese and former Soviet republics who are finding that the past did not always happen as it is written in the history books. So, too, are devotees of cricket's bible, *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*, the most famous work of sporting reference in the world, who will be surprised to learn that 70 per cent of the scorecards found between its famous yellow covers in editions before 1970 are wrong.

The errors came to light as members of the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians, involved in the mammoth task of entering the scorecards of all first-class matches played in Britain since 1946 onto computer, compared details from the official scorebooks with those given in Wisden. They found discrepancies in most cases, from variations in batsmen's scores to bowling analyses, from scores at the fall of wickets to the number of wides and no-balls.

"The early indications from several county scorebooks are that the pre-1970 Wisdens contained mistakes in at least 70 per cent of their scorecards," Peter Wynne-Thomas, the association's honorary secretary, said. The association has already published scores of all first-class matches played up to 1900, a process that highlighted hundreds of numerical errors in Wisden.

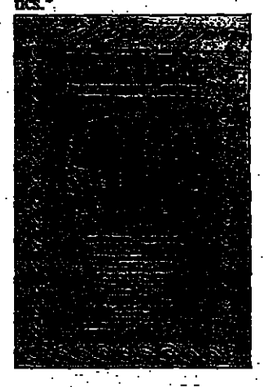
Graeme Wright, a former editor of the almanack, the 132nd edition of which is published next Thursday, says that before he joined Wisden in 1978 it appeared to have been standard practice to "fiddle" the figures if the scorecards did not add up correctly.

"The scores came in for each county from local reporters who had simply filled in the blank scorecards sold on the ground," he said. "These scorecards were not checked in Wisden's offices and errors usually only came to light when the printers noticed that they did not tally." Indeed, it is said of Norman Preston, who edited Wisden from 1952 until his death in 1980, that when a schoolboy once wrote to him pointing out an error in the Derbyshire averages, he simply threw the letter in the bin.

Wisden has for years maintained its reputation for accuracy by publishing an impressively small list of errata from previous editions. Now it would be impossible for it to catalogue all the errors the researchers are finding. One outcome, though, will be that the career records of many past players will need overhauling.

In recent years meticulous care has gone into the checking of all the information that appears in what is popularly known as the "cricketers' bible". Wisden staff compile their own scores and send them to the counties for checking against the official scorebooks. These are then double-checked by Wisden's staff. "I believe that we come closer each year to getting our scores and data 100 per cent accurate," Wright, who is also a member of Wisden's management committee, said.

"The fact is that a complete set of Wisdens forms the only continuous record of the game we've got. It may not be perfect but it is the best thing there is. In any case, many of our readers do not buy the almanack simply for the statistics."



Matthew Engel, editor of the almanack since 1993, yesterday defended Wisden's integrity. "The historical discrepancy between Wisden and the official scores was the discrepancy between the local reporters' version and the official scores. The local reporters often worked for the Press Association and the Press Association's scores were regarded as semi-official."

Engel feels that the figure of 70 per cent is misleading and over-dramatises the situation. "A scorecard has been deemed inaccurate even though all that might be wrong is one bye being given as a leg-bye," he said. "The science of cricket statistics was not always at the level of sophistication it is now. It was simply not that important."

Leading article, page 17

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Tyred of life? No need to play the damsel in distress

Page 12

THE TIMES

CAR 95

The ultimate funmobile blazes a terrifying trail

Page 3



SATURDAY APRIL 1 1995

'Buy a car, get one free' is part of the strategy of an unknown maker that hits Britain this weekend

Push-button sales at the auto gift shop

Kevin Eason on the aggressive Far Eastern firm that is already rocking the car industry boat



JUSTIN SLEE

Buying by numbers: customers at the Daewoo showroom in Rotherham can make their choice of model and finance scheme on a touch-screen computer, while their children amuse themselves in the playroom

The suspicious would believe the offer too good to be true on April Fool's Day: buy a car and get one free. The deal is real, though, and comes from the most ambitious Far Eastern carmaker to attack the British market.

Daewoo of South Korea opens for business today with what could be the most aggressive sales strategy ever seen in this country.

The company — which bills itself as the biggest you have never heard of — is spending £150 million to elbow its way between Ford, Vauxhall and Rover to make Britain one of its most important European markets. It starts with that radical offer which means the first 1,000 people to buy a Daewoo will be able to exchange their car on August 1 for a new N-registered Nexia or Espero model.

Customers can choose the colour, engine, shape and style of their cars at the touch of a button on a computer in one of Daewoo's new showrooms that abolish traditional dealers and hectoring salesmen.

David Gerrans, director of customer operations, says: "We want 1 per cent of the UK market by 1997 and that means we have to get the name known. We have had to be innovative and find ideas nobody has tried before."

Daewoo has two problems: nobody knows who it is; and its cars are effectively Korean versions of hand-me-down General Motors cars, the Nexia a derivative of the old version of the Vauxhall Astra and the Espero an attractive reworking of the Vauxhall Cavalier.

To raise the company's profile, the Koreans have bought the best talent in the industry and turned convention upside down.

There are no dealers and there is no haggling over price; what you see on the sticker is what you pay. The car is delivered without an extra charge — unlike the rest of the industry, which adds between £200 and £600 for delivery charges — with number plates, a year's tax paid and a full tank of petrol.

> 'We have had to find ideas nobody has tried before'

Both models also have a three-year or 60,000-mile warranty, three years' free servicing, three years' AA breakdown cover and a free mobile telephone: all with cars that cost only £9,000-£12,000.

If that is not enough, Daewoo has taken a revolutionary step that every manufacturer in Europe will watch closely, because it could be a move towards smashing the industry structure built up over the past 100 years.

Instead of using established dealerships, Daewoo is setting up its own showrooms. The first two open today in Derby and Rotherham and set the pattern, located at out-of-town shopping areas, nestling between shops such as Do-it-All and a Comet warehouse. The showrooms display the complete nine-car range, with customers able to wander in from the shop next door with the family.

There are playrooms and coffee bars, and after selecting their car on the computer, which also lists finance deals, customers need not fear the hard sell. Sales staff are paid on salary, not commission, to take the heat out of making deals.

Pat Farrell, a former Rover executive and now Daewoo's marketing director, said: "We surveyed 200,000 motorists and discovered 63 per cent found showrooms intimidating places. We want to get rid of that feeling so people can choose what they want without pressure."

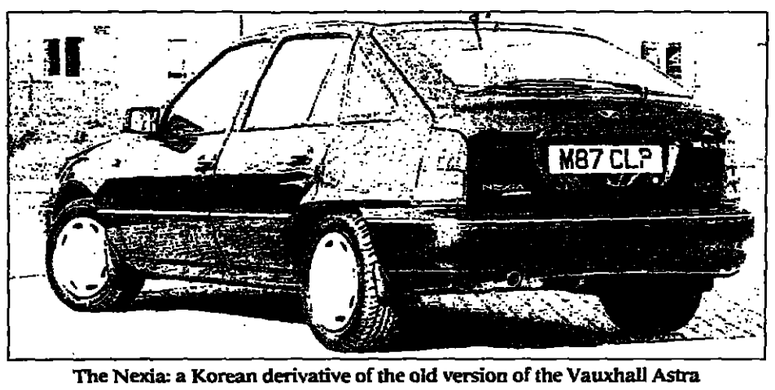
Servicing has also been radically changed. Customers book appointments through Daewoo's headquarters in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, which locates the nearest service centre — not a Daewoo garage but one of 136 centres run by Halfords.

The link is unique, with Daewoo training Halfords mechanics but having its own staff on hand at each centre to communicate with its parts and technical centre in Watford. If this minor revolution works to plan, Daewoo will be selling 20,000 cars a year here within two years — more than Hyundai, Kia, Lada, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Proton, Seat, Skoda and Suzuki do now. Furthermore, this is not a company bound, like the Japanese, by import quotas. Daewoo can import as many cars as it can sell.

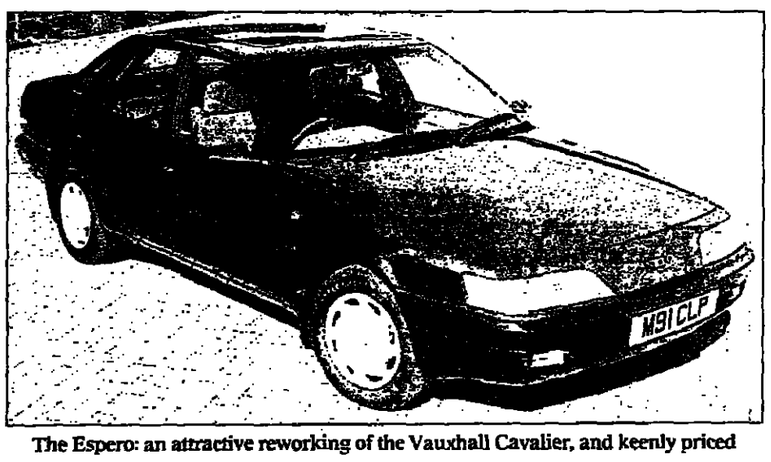
There are also predictions that the company will build a plant here, and Daewoo executives have been talking to MPs and the Department of Trade and Industry about the possibility of building a factory which could become its European manufacturing base.

Last year, Daewoo bought the former International Automotive Design company in Worthing, West Sussex, one of the foremost design houses in the world. Now 500 workers there are planning future Daewoo cars, backed by a budget of £20 million a year. There is also a new engine development facility in Germany.

The scale of the ambition is enormous and enough to guarantee that established makers will be looking hard over their shoulders at the innovative newcomer.



The Nexia: a Korean derivative of the old version of the Vauxhall Astra



The Espero: an attractive reworking of the Vauxhall Cavalier, and keenly priced

Brash newcomer has eyes on global market

Daewoo is the world's 33rd biggest business according to *Fortune Magazine*, yet it is almost unknown in the West.

The business was founded in 1967 as a clothing and textiles exporter, but by 1993 had achieved sales worth about £21 billion a year, employing 100,000 people in 135 countries.

Not content with making everything from ships to spacecraft and buses to televisions, Daewoo — pronounced Day-oo — is intent on becoming a global car manufacturer. Worldwide production is scheduled to jump from around 660,000 cars a year now to more than 2 million, or four times the current size of Rover. Opening up in Britain will cost £150 million and create 2,000 jobs.

So far, Daewoo's ambitions have been limited by joint venture technology which, in the case of the two models on sale in Britain, comes from General Motors.

The base car, the Nexia, is a revamped version of Vauxhall's former Astra, phased out here about four years ago — and it drives like an old Vauxhall. The Nexia, in 1.5-litre 8-valve and 16-valve engine variants, is not going to shake the motoring establishment with its ride and drive, but the package will with standard side impact bars, power steering, adjustable steering column, immobiliser and driver's airbag.

The Espero's lineage to the Cavalier is more difficult to trace thanks to an elegant Bertone-styled body. That has a 1.5, 1.8 and 2.0-litre engine choice, none of which is earthshaking but the car is quiet and confident enough and packed with enough "goodies" to interest thousands of potential buyers.

Both cars have attractive though basic cabins and boots which are big but difficult to get into because the light clusters intrude at either side and there are electric tilt and slide sunroofs in most models.

The Nexia range starts at £8,295 for the GLi three-door up to £9,995 for the GLXi five-door while the Espero starts at £10,695 for the 1.5 GLXi, up to £12,195 for the Espero 2.0 CDXi. Each car comes with 30 days' peace of mind so they can be exchanged or money refunded if buyers are unhappy.

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Cameras poised to capture road tax dodgers

Helen Mound

on trapping car cheats on film

ROAD TAX dodgers could face prosecution using camera evidence for the first time later this year. New technology using an infra-red beam to spot a vehicle, a video camera to capture the image on film, and a microcomputer with software that can read number-plates, has been put through rigorous tests on bridges and in lay-bys across Britain.

Computer checks against the central register at the DVLA in Swansea can reveal if the vehicles were untaxed at the time the video was taken.

Three companies provided the technology — known as Automatic Number Plate Reading (ANPR) — which included a second wide-angle camera to prove that the offending cars were on the road (a factor necessary for prosecution).

Hywel Harris, at the DVLA, who had to ensure that testing conditions were tough, says: "Each company filmed 5,000 cars over three days and nights in all weathers. Possible errors still have to be ironed out, such as the computer misreading the letter B as a number 8. But we're confident the technology will be up to scratch within a year."

Once a computer has checked the film for offending vehicles, a DVLA clerk will manually check for any discrepancies. If the computer finds a possible tax dodger, the clerk will check the number plate against the photograph and the make of car concerned to ensure there are no mistakes.

"If any inconsistencies are found between the photograph and the computer's number plate, we will halt proceedings," says Mr Harris. "However, if we're certain the car was on the road and untaxed, we will prosecute."

A report on the trials is still being considered, as there are a number of minor law changes necessary to allow the DVLA to use photographic evidence as a basis for prosecuting road tax evasion.

"Once we are satisfied the technology is near-foolproof, and that the evidence provided is sound and complies with the law, we will install fixed sites as well as mobile units for the camera equipment," says Mr Harris.

As well as spotting tax evaders on quiet suburban roads and on motorways, the DVLA will check places such as dockyards for untaxed lorries.

Cameras are not the only new weapon against tax dodgers. Regulations that come into force this autumn will allow vehicles parked on public roads without a tax disc to be clamped.

The DVLA claims it is after persistent offenders, not those whose discs have fallen off or whose tax has just expired. Mr Harris says: "Before any car is clamped, the details will be checked against our computer to ensure the car is untaxed. The clamp will be removed only when the motorist has paid the tax and the declamping fee."

The scheme will begin in London, as it is the only city with an official clamping operation, but other local authorities are likely to follow over the next 18 months.

'There is no point in taking your four-wheel-drive vehicle up a mountain, because your friends won't see you'

Give it some wellie — the off King's Roader

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

In the spirit of British enterprise which has done so much for the balance of payments of late, this column will shortly be diversifying into vehicle production. Already designers wearing an interesting combination of green wellies, Paul Smith shirts and Gap slacks are hard at work in my Kensington corporate headquarters and by this time next year my four-wheel drive creation, called the Fox, will be ready.

The trouble with the present generation of such vehicles is that they waste valuable space by having large, powerful engines designed for the mixed activity of driving down motorways at 70mph followed by a low-ratio weekend driving up the side of hills and along farm tracks axle-deep in cow dung.

This is a waste. The four-wheel drive is a fashion accessory. There is no point in driving it up a mountain, because your friends won't see you. It is not an off-roader, it is an off King's Roader, a pretentious heap for pretentious townies. My version will recognise this truth and will therefore be radically different from the Range Rover, Shogun, Prairie, Landcruiser et al. And it will be called the Fox because this wily four-leg drive creature has all but vanished from the countryside for which God allegedly designed it and is to be found only in urban areas.

My Fox will represent the reality rather than the myth. If you stand on the Chiswick flyover of a Friday evening you will see the present generation of off-roaders heading in one direction. Towards London. There they will join all the other off-roaders, which never leave London.

The Fox will cut through this nonsense by being incapable of leaving London except in the last resort following a nuclear holocaust, for it will be as big as a Range Rover but have an engine out of a Fiat Cinquecento, which is all of 903cc.

The exhaust will be specially designed to make it sound like something of about four litres and it will have enormously wide tyres. The interior will be to Ghia standards, including the luscious thick carpet which is de rigeur for existing off-roaders (just the job when your boots are covered in mud).

You may say that with an off-roader you do not have to get out so do not risk getting covered in mud. What a sad misconception. Many existing off-roaders have the aforementioned wide tyres, a dead give-away in this market: tyres grip if the treads are deep, wide treads simply spin on top of the mud.

But in towns there is no mud, so of course wide tyres serve their designated purpose, which is to destroy pavements.

My Fox will save weight by not having an optional low-ratio gearbox, though it will have a low-ratio gear lever, for appearances sake. My guess is that it will be at least two years before any Fox owner discovers that the lever is not connected to anything.

At present I think I can produce the Fox for £15,000 but of course nobody will want anything that cheap so expect to pay £30,000.

I look forward to receiving your deposits.



Uturns are illegal on motorways but that did not prevent the Government deciding that it would not be going ahead with motorway tolls after all. According to Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, "we don't have the technology".

The plan was launched by the previous Transport Secretary in 1993 and since then civil servants, road lobbyists, motoring organisations, learned editorials and television documentaries have occupied themselves debating the pros and cons, only to discover that even if we wanted it we cannot have it.

On that basis, the Department of Transport might as well set up a scheme to investigate the chances of motor cars with square wheels.

Apparently motorway tolls would have raised £700 million a year for road-building schemes. I wonder how much closing down the Department of Transport would save.

April fools rush in to make a false claim

The trouble with being at the end of the phone on April Fool's Day is discovering which calls are genuine.

Last year staff at AA Insurance dealt with a man claiming on his policy because the gate on his drive had been stolen while a woman, who braked too hard, wanted to claim for two pints of spilled milk on the back seat. Another woman wasn't worried that her car had been towed away. She just wanted the AA to retrieve a pair of jeans from the back seat and deliver them to her daughter.

Getting the hump

Help is at hand for Jean Walters, featured in CAR 95 last week because he could not get his Honda Accord down the steep drive of his home and into his garage without grounding the front nose. Robert Wighton from Brighton, suggests he builds a "sleeping policeman" hump at the bottom of the drive to ease the nose up and over. Or he could buy a Citroen. Mr Wighton explains: "He could get a Xantia or BX whose bodies can be raised several inches on their suspension."

Discovery success

Yet more Land Rover Discoverys. The company, which was building 270-a-week in 1989, is making 1,500 a week and speeding up assembly lines even further to 1,760 a week from August. Land Rover had its best year in 1994 with sales of 90,000 vehicles worldwide.

Glad to help

A British company has helped speed development of the automatic version of Ferrari's exotic 456GT. The Italians called in FFD-Ricardo to develop a four-speed transmission capable of handling a V12 engine that does not reach the red line on the rev counter until 7,300rpm.

Nissan price rise

Some Nissan models are more expensive from this week with £140 on the price of a Micra 1.0L three-door, which is now £6,995. There is a 1.5 per cent increase on all Sunny models while the Primera, built at Washington, Tyne & Wear, goes up by 2.8 per cent and the 200SX sports car by 2.3 per cent.

Sporting cut

Hyundai will cut £400 from the price of its sporty Scoupe model from today. The base MVi Scoupe, with its 1.5-litre engine, now starts at just under £10,000 with the more powerful injection SE at £10,399 and the Scoupe Turbo SE, with a 121mph top speed, £11,399.

Deal on VWs

Volkswagens bought before May 31 qualify for free servicing and maintenance for two years or up to 25,000 miles. The company announced yesterday that the offer applies to Golf, Corrado, Vento and Passat models.

Swift response

The lowest priced Japanese car on sale in the UK is the Suzuki Swift. Two new versions are with 150 dealers at £5,995, for the five-door 1.0-litre GC version, and £6,295 for the three-door GLS.

Airbag safety

Research in the United States shows airbags have reduced fatalities in head-on crashes by 23 per cent.

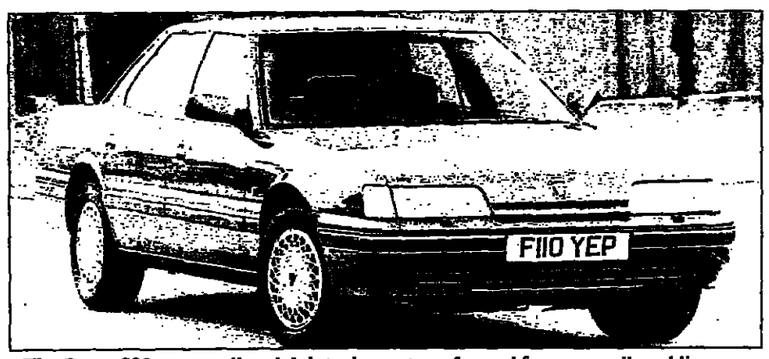
Hilton Holloway *reports on the sophisticated conjuring tricks carmarkers are using to save billions*



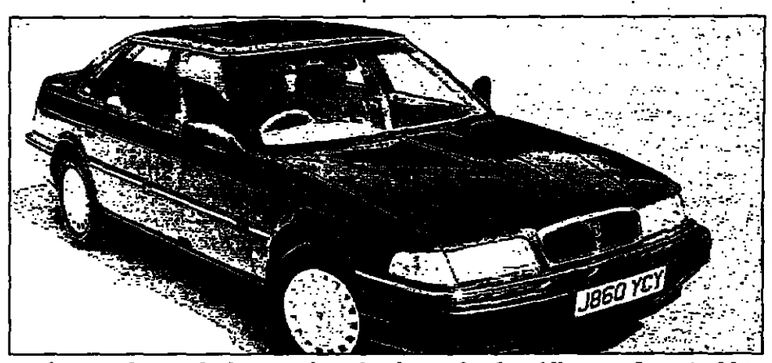
The first Fiesta: with just a few cosmetic changes, the original design lasted 12 years



Fiesta Mark 2: but the 'new' 1984 model amounted to little more than a clever nose job



The Rover 800: too small and dainty, it was transformed from a moribund limo . . .



. . . into number one in the executive sales charts – just by adding on a few extra bits

Old models never die, they just get a facelift

Facelift is a term you normally associate with ageing actresses and the worst excesses of Hollywood. In recent years, however, facelifting has become one of the motor industry's most valued conjuring tricks.

The tin-bashing equivalent of plastic surgery has become de rigeur for major manufacturers because it enables them to save literally billions of pounds when launching a fresh model.

In some cases makers are able to present a car as new simply by changing the shape of a few strategically-placed panels, but in others only the basic skeleton remains.

Most recently we've experienced the fanfare for the 1995 Ford Escort. As if you hadn't guessed, this is just a fairly thorough revamp of the model which was launched in mid-1990, and facelifted for the first time in mid 1992.

Look closely and you'll see that the modish appearance has been brought about by modified wings, and a new bonnet and bumper. In fact, this car has been so extensively modified both mechanically and in the cabin, that it drives as if it were as new as the nose suggests.

Basically, a car can be broken down into four sections: the inner structure, the outer skin, running gear and interior fittings. Of these, the inner structure (usually called the floorpan) is by far the most expensive part of the car to redesign.

Change this and enormous amounts of money would have to be spent modifying the exterior panels, running gear and interior fittings.

With fresh-faced models now expected every five or six years in order to keep up with the competition, manufacturers have discovered that clever external and internal tweaks can extend the life of a mainstream model by as much as a decade.

Ford can probably be credited with the invention of the modern, life-enhancing facelift: its team of designers managed to transform the curvilinear 1960s Granada, best known as Inspector Regan's transport in *The Sweeney*, into the square-set late 1970s motorway patrol car. Although the two cars looked completely different, thanks to fresh panels and a new interior, under the skin they were pretty much identical.

Ford then repeated this trick with the Fiesta, originally launched in 1978. By simply changing the nose and plumbing in a new interior it created the 1984 Mk 2 Fiesta, extending the life of the basic original design to more than 12 years, until the all-new model replaced it in 1989.

The Rover Metro, born in 1980, is now on its third nose and second interior. Now known as the 100 series, it looks like the fundamental design might even just come of age, if it staggers on into 1998.

Of course, the longer a basic design stays in production, the more profit is made on each car that rolls off the production line.

However, the increasing popularity of putting cars under the knife has not been without hitches. Grafting a new nose and tail on to an existing car can lead to the worst of all worlds, mirroring the schizophrenic appearance that characterises the nipped and tucked elderly. Ford's Scorpio shows even the most experienced surgeons can get it wrong. This executive barge shows its 1984 origins with a period high window line and flat sides. Trying to tack on a shovel nose and tapering boot has not, despite what Ford says, improved on the old model.

But facelifting can also rescue fading and misjudged designs. One of the most successful carried out was that wrought on the Rover 800, catapulting a moribund ministerial limo to number one in the executive sales charts. According to Roy Axe, of Rover's design team at that time, it was quickly realised that the 800 looked too small and dainty amongst its rivals in the executive car park, so within 18 months it was "bulked out".

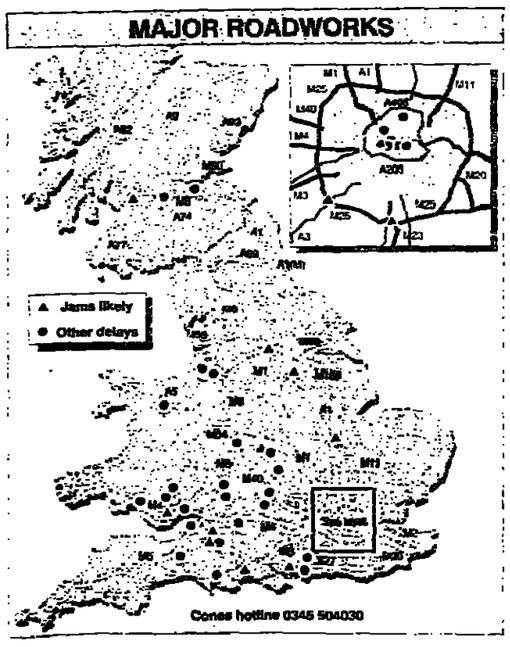
Looking at the two cars side by side, it's hard to believe that Rover changed so few panels. A new bonnet, bumpers, wings and headlights at the front and new rear wings, bumper and tail lights transformed the car. Even the doors are identical, with just the addition of a rubbing strip to disguise some of the 800's numerous body ridges. In fact, the two cars are so closely related that the status-conscious motorist on a budget can take the fluted bonnet and chrome grille of the new car and bolt it straight on to the old model.

This rash of remoulded metal is set to continue apace. Later this year, Ford will unwrap the bandages to reveal yet another "new" Fiesta with the same understructure as the current car (if you don't believe it when you see it, look closely at the windscreen and side windows).

Other cars that will go under the knife in the next year or so include the Rover Coupé, Cabriolet and Tourer trio and the Skoda Favorit, which is soon to re-emerge as the Felicia.

But perhaps the easiest to rumble is the new Daewoo Nexia: yes, it's the old Vauxhall Astra/Belmont with a nose job!

MAJOR ROADWORKS



AA ROADWATCH — YOUR GUIDE TO THE WORST TRAFFIC BLACKSPOTS

● LONDON

Earls Court: delays daily between 10am and 8pm until April 9 for Ideal Home exhibition.

Putney and Mortlake: The University Boat Race today — avoid Putney Bridge, Hammersmith Bridge, A4 Great West Rd, Fulham Palace Rd, Lonsdale Rd in Barnes and all riverside roads.

London Marathon: Delays tomorrow around route in Greenwich, Blackheath, Surrey Quays, Brunel Rd, Tooley St, Canary Wharf, Tower of London, Embankment, Parliament Sq, Birdcage Walk and The Mall.

Coca-Cola Cup Final: 5pm start at Wembley today. Usual big match traffic.

A406 Upper Edmonton: Road width reduced on Lea Valley Viaduct.

A219 Putney Bridge: reduced to one lane each way for repairs until June.

A214 Trinity Rd, Wandsworth: temporary lights at junction with Burntwood Lane cause regular delays.

● SOUTH WEST

M5 Avon J18-19 (Avonmouth/Portbury): lane closures each way as part of new Severn Crossing works.

M5 Glos J11-12 (Cheltenham: contraflow until September.

A4 Bath: restrictions on London Rd West in Batheaston. Long delays.

A417: contraflow on Barnwood Bypass.

A350 Warminster: temporary lights 24 hours a day for roadworks and the road will be tomorrow and April 9.

A3102 Swindon: contraflow on Wootton Bassett Rd, east of Whitehill Way.

A36 Somerset: major roadworks near Norton Saint Philip, at A366 junction until May.

A358 Taunton: construction work on Bishops Lydeard Rd at Penn Elm Hill.

A31 Dorset: major roadworks on Ashley Heath and Woolsbridge roundabouts cause long delays.

A35 Dorset: temporary lights between Puddletown and Tolpuddle until May.

● SOUTH EAST

M25 J7-8 (M23/Reigate): roadworks cause regular delays and affects traffic joining from M23 northbound.

M25 J10-11 (A3/Chertsey): lane closures either way.

A3 Guildford: rush hour delays until end of May.

A27 Chichester Bypass: contraflow between Stockbridge and Bognor Rd roudabouts, with lane closures also at Westhampnett until May.

M275 Hampshire between Portsmouth and M27: contraflow for maintenance.

A420 near Faringdon: temporary lights 24 hours a day for roadworks, overnight and weekend restrictions. Long delays between Oxford and Swindon.

● MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA

Coventry: Guild Procession on April 7 via Earl Street, Hay Lane, Bayley Lane and Cuckoo Lane then via Broadgate and High St.

A43 Silverstone: resurfacing work with temporary lights daily (no work on Sundays or over Easter Weekend.

A4123 near Dudley: one lane closed each way on the Birmingham New Rd, between Burnt Tree island and Tipton Rd junction until June.

A45 Stonebridge: flyover construction at A452 junction and widening between M42 J6 and Stonebridge Island, 40mph limit and lane closures until June.

A47 Peterborough: the Link Rd closed between Bretton Way and A15 Lincoln Rd interchanges, from 7pm today to 5am Monday.

● NORTH

M6 Cheshire J20-21A (Lymm-Croft): roadworks continue near Thelwall Viaduct.

M57 Merseyside J1 (Tarbock Island): roadworks and lane closures at roundabout junction with the M62.

A58M Leeds: on the Inner Ring Road, the exit slip road to Eastgate and Regent St closed.

M18 Doncaster: contraflow between J3 and J4 and southbound exit slip road at J3 is closed.

● WALES

A467 Newport: contraflow on Forge Lane, while work underway on A48 at Tredegar Park roundabout.

Crickhowell, Powys: restrictions for work at Glangrwyney Bridge until April 2.

M4 South Glamorgan J32 (Coryton): widening work with lane restrictions on all approaches, will affect A470.

A5 Maerdy, Clwyd: improvements at Glyn bends. Temporary lights at times and short-term closures until end July.

A465 West Glamorgan, between Llandarcy and Aberdulais: contraflow along Saltings viaduct for resurfacing.

A4223 Pontypridd: one-way system on Gelliwastad Road until end of June.

● SCOTLAND

M8 in Strathclyde: contraflow for roadworks at J8 (Canderside).

Edinburgh: width restrictions on High St between North and South bridges.

A8 Glasgow: Paisley Rd West closed eastbound between Portman St and Paisley Rd Toll, with diversions for city bound traffic.

● NORTHERN IRELAND

A26 Co Londonderry: temporary lights on Greenhill Rd at junction with Ballymoney Bypass until September.



هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Vaughan Freeman, testing the ultimate funmobile, emerges cramped, soaked – and stunned

Blazing a trail in the retro Rocket



Gordon Murray with his Rocket: 'This is the car I wanted to design before I died. Driving The Rocket is like falling off a cliff. Nothing else comes near it for acceleration and responsiveness of handling'

The name is schoolboy daft, the looks are nostalgically outrageous and the performance of the street-legal Rocket is either thrilling or terrifying, depending on your nerves.

It is the brainchild of Gordon Murray, the man who brought us the world's fastest and most expensive production car — the £635,000, 230mph McLaren F1. He calls his new, super-light, motorcycle-engined Rocket "the most fun car in the world".

It seats two in fierce discomfort, the passenger wedged behind the driver so that both enjoy the central-seat driving position of a racing car. Luxuries? None. There is no room for fripperies such as a stereo, heater or roof. In return for blinding acceleration, and admiring glances, you get a wet bottom and a lapful of rain in adverse weather.

In essence, The Rocket is a 1960s Formula One car, reincarnated for the 1990s and engineered to be MoT passable. The theory was simple: to match ample power to minimum weight. The result is a car that weighs only 370 kilograms, uses a 1,000cc Yamaha motorcycle engine and a racing tubular space frame chassis, with aluminium and carbon fibre panels and body parts.

Its shape recalls the days when Graham Hill, Jim Clark and their peers raced cars with names such as Vanwall and BRM, all pleasing curves rather than the stark lines of today's computer-designed Formula One missiles.

Priced at £37,500, The Rocket promises more performance per lb than virtually any other car on the road. It covers 0-60mph in 4.4 seconds, 0-100mph in 10 seconds, and has a top speed of 145mph.

Easy it isn't. It took almost four minutes to crush my 6ft 5in frame into the rear seat, where I was snugly cocooned, dislocated knees and all, behind professional driver Paul Forster. Helmet and four-belt harness on, we shot off around the Longcross test track at Chertsey in Surrey. Despite pouring rain, The Rocket stunned.

Having expected a harsh, jolting racing-car drive, the ride was pleasantly gentle, and the low-slung stance and lack of roof mean speed is truly experienced. The sensation is light years from that of motoring in a family saloon. The rear-mounted engine barks, revving freely to an extraordinary 10,500rpm. The clutch is incredibly sensitive and the five-speed gearbox is operated via a two-inch aluminium tube.

After some red-faced stalling, I was able to get The Rocket round the course without it ever seeming less than assured and manageable, and far more competent than its driver.

The car is built by Chris Craft, a former professional Formula One driver, and his Oxfordshire-based Light Car Company, which will manufacture 30 a year.

He says: "I met Gordon Murray when he designed the car I drove at Le Mans in 1972, and ever since we have been talking about building the ultimate, fun, road-going car, the alternative supercar.

"We were on holiday together in France, had a glass of wine or two, and decided to do something about it. So it has taken the best part of 20 years to get the idea into metal."

Mr Murray says: "This is the car I wanted to design before I died. Driving The Rocket is like falling off a cliff. Nothing else comes near it for acceleration and responsiveness of handling. My favourite designer was and still is Colin Chapman, who built cars in the 1960s that are still modern. He launched his Lotus Seven in 1957 and since then it has been the definitive car if you wanted something with responsive steering for sheer driving pleasure."

He went on: "The only way to make a car substantially better than the Seven was to make it substantially lighter. I wanted to make something ridiculously light and the only way was to use a motorcycle engine, then engineer everything else around it.

"We wanted to evoke the shape of the racing cars of the late 1950s, sucah as the Vanwall and the Lotus Formula One cars, and build something that flowed like the Aston DB3 or 300S Maserati, which never look dated.

"Both The Rocket and the McLaren F1 are about giving ultimate statements: the McLaren is the ultimate super sports car on the road, the Rocket gives the ultimate driving fun.

"You need to push design forward, and if you don't have an extreme end of everything, you end up with grey, and the everyday stuff in the middle suffers."

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Engine: Yamaha 1002cc, 4-cylinder, 20-valve, producing 143bhp at 10,500rpm.
Transmission: Five-speed manual with sequential gear change.
Fuel consumption: 50mpg overall.
Insurance: cars will need to be individually brokered.

Mitsubishi softens up bull-bars after alert on safety

Kevin Eason on a move to cut child casualties

MITSUBISHI has reacted to claims that steel bull-bars can kill by introducing a "softer" plastic type for its popular Shogun four-wheel-drive.

The Government is considering a ban on the heavy bars, which are designed to protect the grilles and headlamps of 4x4 cars but increase the danger to pedestrians hit by vehicles such as the Shogun, the Land Rover Discovery or Isuzu Trooper.

Mitsubishi says its new bars, described as "front styling bars", were designed after contact with worried customers. As many as 500,000 vehicles are thought to be fitted with the bars, including 75 per cent of 4x4s, which use bars weighing up to 40kgs. *Car 95* revealed earlier this month. Pedestrians, particularly children, tend to be mown down by the bars



Softening the blow: the plastic Mitsubishi bars

instead of flipped on to the bonnet to avoid the worst of a collision. The Transport Research Laboratory claims that up to 35 people a year, including 15 children, are killed as a result of injuries caused by bull-bars.

Mitsubishi has designed bars made from a recyclable, lightweight polyurethane which are the first to comply with safety impact regulations still to be ratified by the European Union.

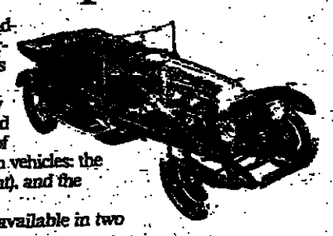
The bars were tested by the German Federal Highway Research Institute and pass the proposed directive for vehicle safety laid down by the European Experimental Vehicles Committee. The draft directive is now with the European Union and should be rubber-stamped soon.

Mitsubishi says there are still some final tests to be done but the bars should be available at dealers by July, in black or colour-coded to match the body finish. The retail price is expected to be £445.

THE TIMES

Historic print offer

Today we offer readers a further opportunity to buy prints of two of John Lawson's cut-away illustrations of Lord Montagu's series of outstanding British vehicles: the Bentley 3-litre (right), and the Austin 7.



The prints are available in two forms:

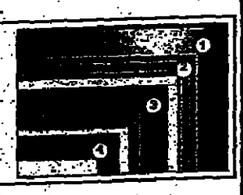
● Unframed, 297mm by 420mm, on 130gm paper. Price £3.99 including VAT and carriage;

● A limited edition of 250 prints signed by Lawson and Lord Montagu, on 170gm paper, 297mm by 420mm plus a 6cm border and in a choice of four frames. Price £29.99 including VAT and carriage.

For queries, phone 0843-602717.

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2. The high-gloss black lacquer hockey.
3. Black limed wood with two gold lines.
4. An unusual contemporary dark wood frame with gold inner.



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Name .....
Address ..... Postcode .....
Please send me ..... (quantity) unframed Bentley 3-litre prints @ £3.99 each
Please send me ..... (quantity) unframed Austin 7 prints @ £3.99 each

	Qty Frame 1	Qty Frame 2	Qty Frame 3	Qty Frame 4	Price £
Bentley @ £29.99					
Austin 7 @ £29.99					

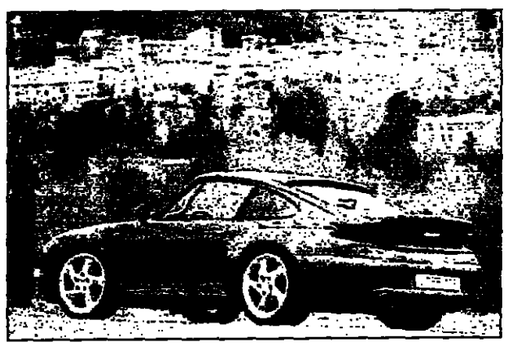
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CARS ON SHOW AT BEAULIEU

An exhibition of all 12 cars featured by Lord Montagu and sponsored by *Car '95* will be open from this month until the end of September at the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu. Full details of a reduced price admission offer will appear next week.

Porsche's minor masterpiece

Eric Dymock puts the new 911 Turbo through its rapid paces



In 1986, at the height of the classic car boom, Porsche planned the 959, the first of a new sort of supercar that culminated in the McLaren F1. News of the Porsche encouraged Ferrari to build the F40 and Jaguar the XJ220, and although none turned out to be the investments buyers were led to expect, they were pinnacles of automotive achievement.

The 959 was priced at about £150,000 and 200 were to be built. Before even one was finished, places in the queue of buyers changed hands at a premium. Within weeks of 13 being allocated to the UK, 959s were being advertised for £250,000.

Prices have come down since classic car values collapsed in 1990 and now Porsche is offering a road-going 911 Turbo that is something of a poor man's 959. "Poor" is relative: the new model, nearly as fast and powerful as the 959, costs £91,950.

The 911 Turbo has a 3.6-litre engine with two KKK turbochargers, a six-speed gearbox, four-wheel drive, and a test drive last week in France showed that it, like the 959, has the performance of a racing car with the refinement of a road car.

It has a top speed of 180mph and its 400 horsepower provides acceleration that can be literally breathtaking. Turbo-lag, the time-lapse between pressing the accelerator and the turbos spinning up to full power, has been virtually eliminated. The speed comes in great surges in each of the six gears.

The combination of immense stopping power and the grip of 10in wheels with great, fat low-profile, racing-style tyres is reassuring when other vehicles on the road suddenly seem to be coming at you at high speed backwards. The wide tyres and four-wheel drive provide the 911 Turbo with tenacious road grip.

It has inherited the 959's hollow-spoked alloy wheels, together with a new manufacturing technique.

The weight of wheels is crucial to good handling, and designers go to almost any lengths to reduce it. The 911 Turbo's wheels are made with spokes welded to the rims by friction, which means spinning the wheel centrepiece against the rim under pressure, creating heat and fusing the two together.

Porsche spares no expense and little effort to create a minor masterpiece. Whether you regard the entire car as a masterpiece depends on the sort of car you want. As supercars go, the 911 Turbo is not for the faint-hearted and some drivers will find the turbulent ride tiresome.

The rear-engined weight distribution and short wheelbase, together with firm springing and low-profile tyres, provide a lot of fore-and-aft pitching and harsh vibrations over rough surfaces. It is a trade-off for the astonishing traction and contour-hugging which makes the car heave on every camber, and jolt on every rut almost exactly as a racing car would away from its natural element, a billiard-table smooth circuit.

Cornering power is prodigious. There is scarcely any body roll, no slide, no tail-heaviness — which is effectively cancelled out by the four-wheel drive — and no question of reaching its limits on the road. Given the wide spaces of a test track, it might be possible to determine how much warning the driver gets of a spin, but for all practical purposes the problem can be ignored, at least in the dry.

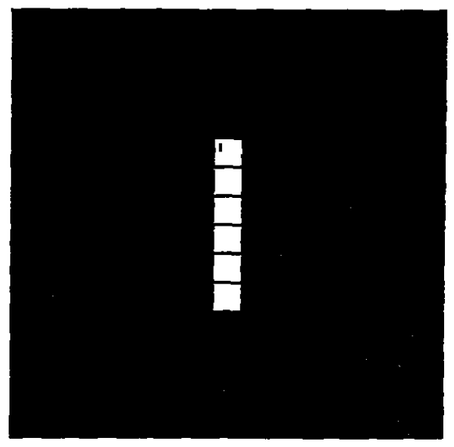
The steering is appropriate — heavy enough to transmit the feel of how the front wheels are behaving, light enough to make the quick, high-geared movements necessary to dart from corner to corner smoothly and swiftly.

The gearbox takes a little getting used to because the ratios are so closely-spaced that it is easy to forget in the heat of the moment — and at 911 Turbo speeds heated moments come thick and fast — which gear you are in. The lever is thoughtfully weighted to make selection of the next gear swift and natural, however, a fine piece of detailing that stems directly from one of the longest and most distinguished racing pedigrees in the history of motor sport.

There are easier ways of covering the ground quickly than buying a Porsche 911 Turbo. A Honda NSX is about half the price and rides like a limousine. It is exquisitely balanced, quiet and smooth, with no contour-following heaves, and as easy to drive as a Honda Civic — which is perhaps its problem.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Engine: rear-mounted, air-cooled flat-six, 3,600cc, twin turbochargers, intercooler, 408bhp at 5,750rpm
Transmission: six-speed manual gearbox, four-wheel drive, limited slip differential
Performance: top speed 180mph, 0-60mph in 4.5sec.
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Rover thinks big for its baby

The new 400 marks the end of one era but heralds the birth of another, says **Kevin Eason**



The 416SLi: part of a range Rover is expecting great things of, despite the fierce competition

Rover will cut free of its 16-year dependence on Japanese technology with the launch next month of the new 400 series.

The 400 hatchback is the final result of the long-term collaboration with Honda, which produced a series of models to pull the old BL business, renamed Rover, back from the brink. The partnership started with the Triumph Acclaim in 1979 and took in the Rover 800 executive cars and the current 200 series, which has been Rover's bestseller in recent times.

The latest deal is the same, with Rover effectively re-packaging a Honda, this time the Civic made at the Japanese maker's plant in Swindon, Wiltshire. Rover is licensed to build the car by its Japanese partner, but the British business will not need Honda help much longer since being bought by BMW.

The new 400 may be the last but it promises to be the most successful of the Anglo-Japanese cars when it reaches showrooms on May 16. Rover is thought to be gearing up its factory at Longbridge in Birmingham for potential sales, including healthy exports of around 200,000 cars a year — twice the outgoing 200/400 series.

Just how much Rover depends on this car can be gauged from the fact that the company has been pushing the model hard among fleet buyers, even before launch. They have been first to see the 400 and it is their chequebooks that will determine just how successful the car is in one of the toughest segments of the market, in which all the top manufacturers are scrapping for business.

The 400 has to compete against the Ford Mondeo, Vauxhall Cavalier and Peugeot 306 and 405 among fleet buyers if it is to find the sort of sales that will help transform Rover's annual production from below 500,000 vehicles to above 750,000 by the end of the century.

The 400 is a smaller version of the 600 series and about 6in shorter than its Mondeo-sized rivals, although longer than the outgoing model.

Design cues pioneered in the 600, including the grille and headlamps, the sweeping bonnet and rounded rear, are all carried over into the smaller car by the design team, led by Gordon Sked. Although the door panels are the same as the Swindon-built Civic from which the 400 is derived, the similarities stop there, with Rover providing an all-new body.

The interior has the inevitable wood-and-leather touches familiar to Rover buyers, though much of the styling actually comes from the Civic — no bad thing, since the Civic is classed as one of the leaders in its segment.

Under the bonnet, everything is Rover, with award-winning 1.4 and 1.6-litre K-series engines carrying the bulk of the range. Rover promises 1.8-litre, 2-litre petrol and diesel versions — engines all made in-house at Rover — in quick succession into next year, to give the widest spread of models. The first five-door hatchbacks in the showrooms will be joined by nine derivatives of the 2.0-litre petrol and L-series diesel at the end of the year.

Safety comes from a body that is 20 per cent stiffer and has integrated side impact protection, plus standard driver's airbag on all derivatives. The security system incorporates an alarm and immobiliser.

Prices will be competitive at between about £12,000 and £16,000, although probably undercut by Civic prices which could be £1,000 cheaper car for car.

Meanwhile, Nissan this week announced a successor to its Sunny range in this country. Called the Almera, it will compete against the 400, among others, also coming in 1.4, 1.6 and 2.0-litre options. The three-door car is a sister version of a Japanese-designed and built model called the Pulsar, although Nissan says the five-door hatchback was designed specifically for Europe. The Almera makes its debut at the Frankfurt Motor Show in September, with a launch in Britain early next year.

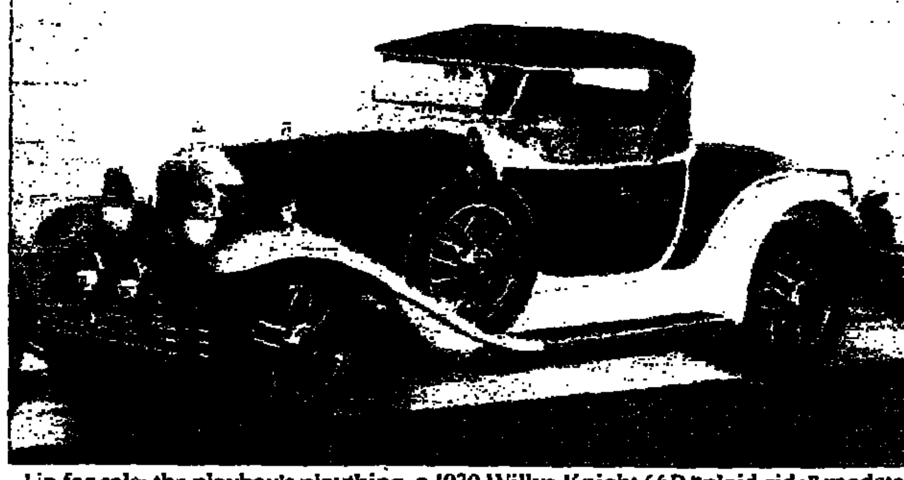
ROVER 400 SERIES

Price: between £12,000 and £16,000

Range: five derivatives at launch in 1.4 and 1.6-litre engine form with nine options to follow which includes 2-litre T-series engine and 2-litre L-series diesel engines. One Honda 1.6 mated to automatic transmission will be offered immediately. Booted saloon versions to follow in about nine months.

Dimensions: 4,316mm long, 1,695mm wide and 1,385mm high, luggage capacity 375 litres, 717 litres with rear seats folded, weight 1,640kgs

Performance: 1.4-litre, 0-60mph in 11 seconds, top speed 115mph, fuel consumption 31.7mpg in town, average 41.9mpg; 1.6-litre, 0-60mph in 10 seconds, top speed 118mph, fuel consumption 29.9mpg around town, average 40.5mpg.



Up for sale: the playboy's plaything, a 1930 Willys-Knight 66B "plaid side" roadster

Frankly my dear ... it's a classic collector's item

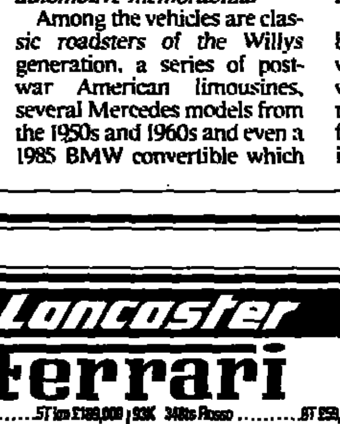
Cars from one of the greatest American collections are to be auctioned today by Christie's in New York (Alan Copps writes). The star of the show is expected to be this rare 1930 Willys-Knight 66B "plaid side" roadster thought to have been owned by Clark Gable.

The Willys, from the company which not many years later produced that Second World War workhorse the Jeep, was a classic example of the 1930s supercar aimed at the playboy market.

Gable was among the first to order one after it was introduced at the 1929 New York Auto Show. Its main attraction is the outstanding coachwork with scalloped contours, Art Deco-inspired interior and flamboyant plaid exterior finishing. Even the engine and engine bay were styled by the designer, Amos Northrup.

Few were produced and even fewer survived the war. This one was for many years owned by Movieland Studio Rentals in Hollywood, hence the belief that it was Gable's car. It was sold and restored when Movieland's assets were auctioned in 1986.

The car comes from a collection put together by Philip Wichard, who acquired his first car when he was only eight and went on to make a fortune as a builder on Long Island. He revived his passion for automobiles in 1962 and rapidly built up one of the finest collections encompassing rare and unusual cars from both the United States and Europe. Christie's are selling 47 cars from the Wichard collection together with an extensive range of automotive memorabilia.



Gable: ordered one in 1929

Among the vehicles are classic roadsters of the Willys generation, a series of post-war American limousines, several Mercedes models from the 1950s and 1960s and even a 1985 BMW convertible which was the personal transport of Wichard's wife. Other cars include a unique 1929 Bentley 4.5-litre with a Dual Cowl Phaeton body by Vanden Plas. It is fitted with a roll-up front window and "Barker Dippers", a device which enabled the driver to adjust the angle of the headlights while on the move.

There is also a 1931 Rolls-Royce Phantom II cabriolet built for the Mergenthaler family who made a fortune from a New York printing business. It is fitted with what is known as a Croydon-style body said to be among the most graceful of its kind.

The body was built by Inskip, the American agent for Rolls-Royce, and the story runs that Mr Mergenthaler paid them to destroy the templates for some panels so his car would remain unique.

Another extravagant rarity from the same year is a Chrysler CG Imperial Town Car designed and built for Mrs Walter P Chrysler, wife of the company's founder.

Its custom-built coachwork by LeBaron includes bleached walnut woodwork with a silver inlay and "his and her" rear vanity cases. Interior fittings include ashtrays finished in cloisonné enamel.

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93K 260E Smoke silver, black tex, 8 aw, cc, rhr, ctg 29T £22,995
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94L C180 Elegance Auto met, ctr, albag, esr, ew, abs 7T £21,395
93L C180 Elegance Auto ctr, al 6T £21,995
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93K 300TD Estate Auto met, rfs, esr, ew, fca, abs, ctsl 23T £27,595
91H 300TE 4-Matic Auto met, hide, a/c, alloys, wal 55T £23,995
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94M E220C Onyx grey, hide, afw, 17" AMG Alls, afs 1T £36,995
94M E220 Auto Tourmaline, far, ctr, 8aw, ww 3T £23,995
94L E220T Auto White, cls, esr, ew, alarm 17T £26,995
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93G 230CE Auto Silver esr, ew, Alloys, far, ctr 37T £21,995
94M E300T Diesel Auto Silver, rfs, ww, alarm, cd 4T £31,995
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92K 230CE Pearl Blue, Cream Hide, Walnut, Stereo 14T £26,995
92K 250D Signal Red, Black Cloth, ESR, EW 14T £15,995
93L C250D Elegance Silver, Black Hide, Cruise Control 25T £23,995
93L C220 Sport Silver, Black Cloth, Auto, ERW, FAR 18T £23,995
94M C180 Esprit Nautic, Ultramarine Cloth, ESR, EW Ex Demo 14T £19,495
92K 190E 2.0 Auto, Almandine, Cream Cloth, 4 x EW, ESR 20T £16,995
92K 190E 2.0 Auto, Blue Black, Cream Cloth, 4 x EW, ESR 32T £16,495
90G 190E 2.0 Auto, Pearl Grey, Grey Cloth, ABS, ESR, EW 36T £12,995
93K 190E 1.8 LE Auto, Rosso, Grey, 8 Hole Alloys, Walnut, Stereo 12T £16,395
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94 (M) C220 Elegance Black, Grey Cloth, Auto, 8 Hole Alloys, Stereo 16T £23,995
94 (M) C220 Elegance Imperial Red, Grey Cloth, Auto, Alarm, Stereo 12T £22,995
94 (L) C180 Elegance Polar White, Black Cloth, Auto, Alarm, Stereo 19T £20,995
94 (L) C180 Elegance Pearl Blue, Blue Cloth, Auto, Alarm, Stereo 11T £20,995
94 (L) C180 Elegance Black, Grey Cloth, Auto, Stereo 3T £20,995
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Vaughan Freeman on how best to put a classic stored for the winter safely back on the road

Putting the spring in an old car's step

Classic car owners who rush to get their machines out of winter storage at the first sign of a spring weekend risk damaging their vehicles, or even an accident, unless they bring their cars back to life properly.

Many are ill-prepared or simply too careless to check for the damage that an unheated garage and months of standing still can wreak.

Mike Williams, managing director of Kent-based Beaufort Restoration Services, which specialises in recommissioning cars for use after winter lay-ups, says: "Around this time you get two or three warm weekends and owners remember they have got their old car tucked away somewhere.

"Often they have not been out even to look at the car, much less start it up every few weeks, as we advise."

Often, he says, owners simply charge up the flat battery and drive off, little realising that tyres, brakes, steering or even the engine could have deteriorated to a dangerous extent. "The sort of problems owners have are sticking clutches or frozen brakes," says Mr Williams. "Also, if brakes are not used, the brake fluid attracts and absorbs water. This leads to eventual brake failure."

Mr Williams says: "If your car is stored in less than ideal conditions, it is better to run it through the winter, even on salted roads, than to store it without proper care then try to start it without thorough preparation."

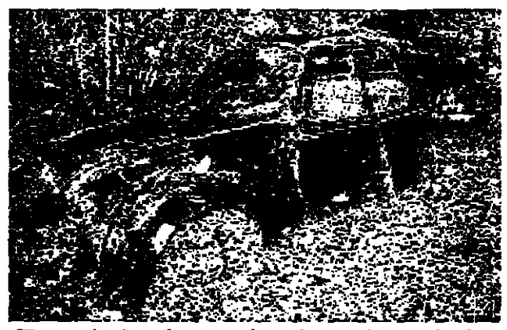
Those about to recommission a laid-up car should, he says, follow this procedure. First, check for tyres that might have deflated, and leaks from the engine, gearbox, brake lines, cylinders, axles, half-shafts and wheel bearings. Also check for rust and perished hoses or seals.

Top up the battery with battery fluid (not tap water or distilled water) and then trickle charge it.

Oil in the engine will have drained to the bottom of the sump, so remove spark plugs (which should be cleaned and re-set), then squirt a thimbleful of lubricant such as Redex into each cylinder. Now turn the engine over for 10 or 15 seconds on the starter before replacing the plugs.

If the cooling system was drained before the lay-up, flush it before refilling, then check for leaks. Check oil levels in the gearbox and axle casings, and the petrol.

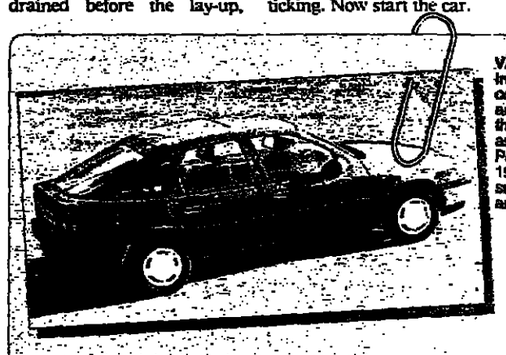
Check all electrical connections, then roll — do not drive — your car out of the garage to check the brakes are working properly. Then prime a mechanical fuel pump by hand and put some fresh petrol in the float bowl of the carburettor. Turn on the ignition and if you have an electric fuel pump, listen for the ticking. Now start the car.



Time to rise: but after a rest, it needs a gentle reawakening

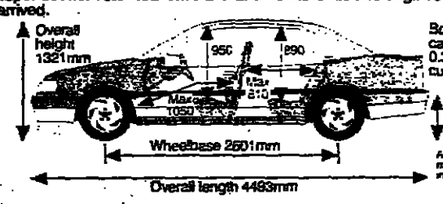
With the engine running, take a walk round checking for leaks or odd noises (eg, rusted and holed exhaust), then test all lights and the horn and again check tyre pressures and the side walls. A trial run is advisable, if possible on a private road, to check for clutch and brake problems.

USED CAR BRIEF



VAUXHALL CAVALIER

Introduced in October 1988, the Mark II Cavalier carried over many components from its predecessor. It has been continuously modified and uprated. Launched in four-door saloon and five-door hatch form, the Cavalier started life with 1.4, 1.6 and 2.0-litre petrol engines as well as a 1.7-litre diesel. Within a year came a four-wheel drive model. Power steering has been standard since 1991, and a catalyst since the 1992 facelift. In 1993 2.5i V6 models were introduced, and in 1994 the super-economical 1.6E-Drive unit and 16-valve 2.0-litre engines arrived.



GOOD NEWS: The reason the Cavalier is so popular with company fleet drivers who cover high mileages each year, is that it is reliable, can carry impressive loads, especially in cavernous hatch-back form, and is as economical as rivals.

BAD NEWS: Three or four year old examples with suspiciously low mileage should be shunned. More than half of all Cavaliers are sold as company cars and many will have covered 75,000 miles or more in three years on a fleet. But because they have been well looked after and carry their mileages well they are ideal "stocking" fodder. That could mean big repair bills sooner than expected.

LOOK FOR: The turbo-fitted 4WD models and late-model V6 cars. These suffered big falls in their second-hand values not untypical of such cars, which makes them an especially keen buy now. Bright or metallic colours help when you come to resell the car.

TO AVOID: Early 1.4 -litre models are considered gutless. Cars without power steering which will make in-town driving a chore. Since so many Cavaliers are available with electric windows, sun roof, anti -lock braking and airbags it seems daft to settle for more basic models.

PRICE RANGE: Expect to pay around £2,950 for a non-catalyst 1988 F-reg 1.6-litre four door, £5,000 for a 1992 J-reg 1.6GL hatchback, £5,500 for a 1990 H-reg 2-litre 4WD saloon, and £13,000 for a 1993 L-reg 2.5-litre V6 Diplomat saloon.

INSURANCE: Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1988 L-reg 1.6-litre Cavalier GL will cost a 25-year old professional, male or female, with full no claims bonus and living in Manchester, £178.30 a year fully comprehensive; a 22-year old male, living in South London, with one year's no claims bonus, will pay £994.25 a year fully comprehensive, and a similar female £805.25.

REPLACEMENT PARTS: (Prices include VAT); clutch assembly £145; full exhaust £155; front dampers £150; rear dampers £85; front brake pads £70; alternator £120 (exchange); starter motor £120 (exchange); tyre £35-£50.

SAFETY RATING: As a larger car the Cavalier rates above average in the latest Department of Transport safety figures, ahead of rivals such as the Toyota Carina but behind the Audi 80 and VW Passat.

OVERALL: A sound car made more attractive by 9,000-mile service intervals and inexpensive labour and parts costs. It has lasted well because it was well thought out to begin with. With Vauxhall soon to launch a new Cavalier, used prices could fall.

50 BESTSELLING USED CARS

MODEL	PRICE Mar-95	Apr-95	Chge
Rover 820 Si 4dr	13895	13650	-1.77
Nissan Primera 2.0 SGX 5dr	10495	10395	-0.96
Honda Accord 2.0i LS 4dr	13195	12795	-3.04
Mazda 626 1.8 GLX 5dr	11195	10850	-3.09
Volvo 480 2.0 ES 3dr	12350	12250	-0.81
Vauxhall Cavalier 2.0 SRi 16V 5dr	10995	10995	0.00
Ford Mondeo 2.0 Si 4dr	10750	10750	0.00
Renault Clio 16V 3dr	10595	10695	0.94
Citroen Xantia 1.8i SX 5dr	11095	10895	-1.81
Jeep Wrangler 4.0 2dr	12995	12995	0.00
Subaru Legacy 2.0 GL Est	12550	12450	-0.80
Saab 900 2.0i S 5dr	14250	14250	0.00
Renault Espace 2.0 RN 5dr	14650	14650	0.00
Peugeot 405 GLD Est	10150	10150	0.00
Nissan 200 SX 3dr	14150	14095	-0.39
Toyota Carina E Executive 5dr	12550	12350	-1.60
Suzuki Vitara JLX SE 3dr	11150	11150	0.00
Mitsubishi Galant 1.8 GLSi 4dr	10650	10450	-1.88
Hyundai Sonata 2.0 GLX 4dr	10695	10350	-1.88
Ford Granada 2.0 Ghia Auto 4dr	13850	13595	-1.84
Audi 80 1.6 4dr	11150	11150	0.00
Volvo 940 2.0 Wentworth 4dr	14950	14950	0.00
Vauxhall Cavalier V6 Diplomatic 5dr	13895	13695	-1.44
Rover 620 Si 4dr	13095	12650	-3.40
Renault Safrane 2.0 RN 5dr	12495	12495	0.00
Peugeot 605 SLi 4dr	12495	12150	-2.76
Nissan Serena 2.0 SLX 7st Est	13595	13495	-0.74
Audi 80 2.0 E 4dr	12695	12550	-1.14
Citroen 2.0 ZX 16V 3dr	10550	10595	0.43
Daihatsu Sportrak ELXi 3dr	12295	12095	-1.63
Ford Escort RS 2000 3dr	12550	12195	-2.83
Honda Civic ESi 3dr	10395	10150	-2.36
Mitsubishi Lancer GLXi 5dr	10450	10350	-0.96
Peugeot 306 XSi 5dr	11550	11550	0.00
Toyota Corolla 1.6 Executive 5dr	11995	11795	-1.67
Vauxhall Astra 2.0i Convertible	11695	11695	0.00
Volkswagen Passat 2.0 GL 4dr	13150	12795	-2.70
Mazda 323 1.6 GLX (SR) 5dr	10395	10395	0.00
Renault 19 16V 3dr	10595	10495	-0.95
Subaru Impreza 1.8 GL Est	11150	11150	0.00
Vauxhall Calibra 16V 3dr	14495	14095	-2.76
Vauxhall Carlton 2.0 CDXi Auto 4dr	14895	14650	-1.65
Citroen XM 2.0i Est	14195	14150	-0.32
Daihatsu Fourtrak TDL 3dr	14295	14450	1.08
Ford Escort 1.8 Ghia TD Est	10495	10495	0.00
Honda Accord 2.0i LS Coupe 2dr	14495	14195	-2.07
Audi 100 2.0 E 4dr	14250	14095	-1.09
Mazda Xedos 6 1.6i 4dr	14195	14195	0.00
Mitsubishi V6 24V Coupe 5dr	14450	13850	-4.16
Rover 216 Cabriolet 2dr	12895	12795	-0.78

CAP NATIONWIDE — *Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer forecourt prices. HB = hatchback, S = saloon. Price changes based on 1-reg low mileage cars. Figures supplied by CAP Nationwide Motor Research*

COMPANY cars with high mileage are attracting attention as buyers lower their sights and look for bargains, according to *Glass's Guide to Car Values*.

The repercussions of the sudden drop in retail demand for new cars has been felt all the way down the buying chain. Fewer new cars means fewer trade-ins and fewer good used cars for dealers to sell.

Leslie Allen, guide managing director, says: "The trade always wants ideal stock, two to three years old, one private owner, full service history, below average mileage. With fewer sales of new cars to retail customers and a corresponding loss of quality trade-ins, this stock has become a rarity. Many dealers are willing to retail used cars with up to 80,000 miles recorded, providing the car has a full main dealer history."

Ex-company cars can be good buys because they have been maintained properly, spent their lives mainly on motorways rather than stop-starting in town, and late-registered cars can be priced as low as earlier models with lower mileages.

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V8i 5-door manual Aug 1991 (J). Gunmetal with blue int. 39,000 easy miles, FSH, one owner ex-demonstrator, loaded with extras - air-con, 7 seats, side steps, rear step, tow bar, rubber mats, rear carpet, sun- roof, roof rack. £13,750.
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SUBJECT TO STATUS

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AMOUNT OF CREDIT £8,900
TOTAL CHARGES INC DOC FEE £2,923
TOTAL REPAYABLE INC DEPOSIT £11,922
1st PAYMENT OF £294.75
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FINAL PAYMENT OF £269.75
4yr EXAMPLE APR 15.7%
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94M CAVALIER 1.8 LSi, 5 dr, choice, 11K miles £8,999
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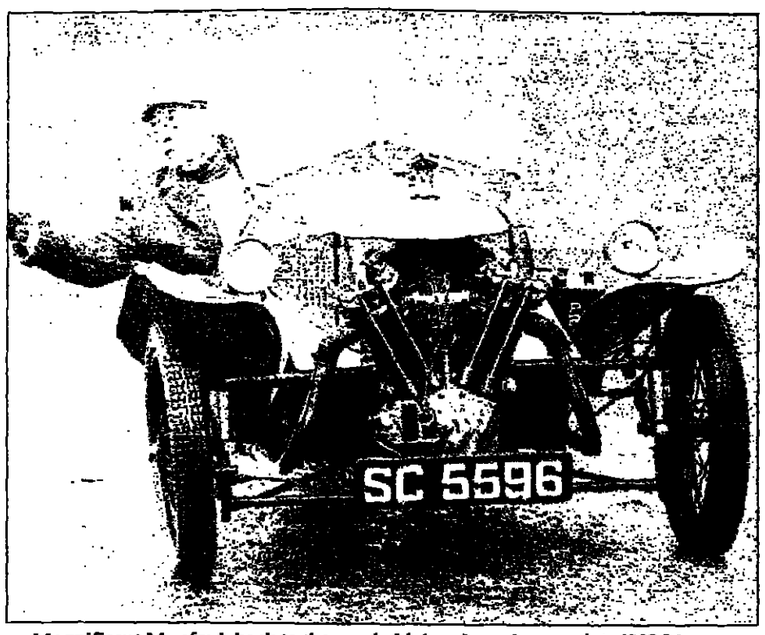
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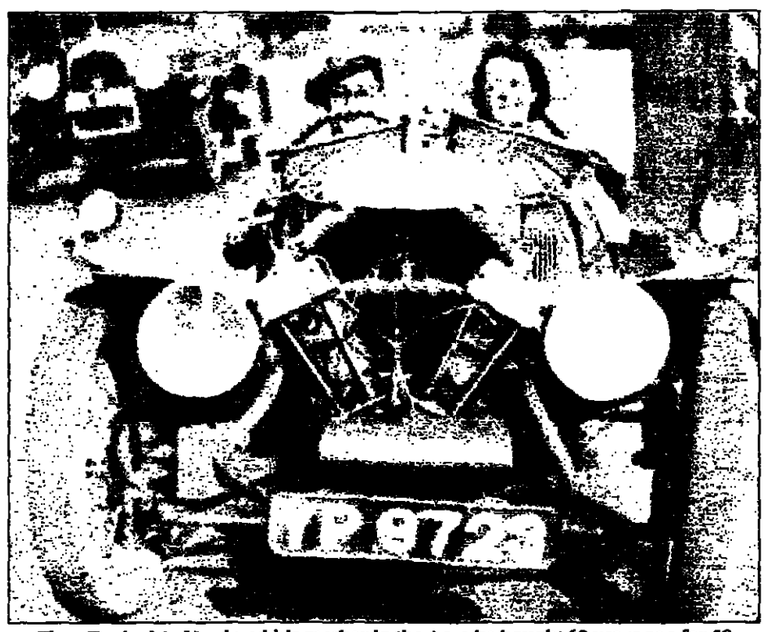
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Richard Herd is bracingly whisked back more than half a century by a trip in a three-wheeler Morgan Aero



Magnificent Manfred: back to the good old days in an immaculate 1929 Morgan



Fiery Freda: Mr Herd and his mother in the Aero he bought 60 years ago for £8

A glorious return to racy days of whine and roses

Exactly 60 years ago this month I bought my Morgan Aero, second, third or fourth-hand, for £8. Its noisy Blackburne two-cylinder motorcycle engine earned it the nickname Fiery Freda. But for two glorious, fun-filled years I roared round the Essex countryside, until I was unfortunate enough to save up £35 to buy a well-used MG two seater - a bird-catcher, true, but never a match for Freda.

Looking lovingly at her picture now, I wonder whether some car-lover has Freda resting on blocks and locked away in a barn or garage. If so, I'd like her back. For I've just had my first ride in a Morgan for decades and I've got the taste again.

Freda was a fairly good little road-holder, except on smooth, wet asphalt or when she got trapped in the London tramlines in the rain. With a fairish, following wind and given a bit of straight downhill road she could get up to 70mph, according to the speedometer: and with the tiny windshield folded flat and the hard driving seat only a foot from the ground, it felt like 100mph.

Her steering wheel was large, thin and made of hard metal. We proud enthusiasts used to dolly them up with black silken cord. The handbrake was outside the car and it didn't have a door. Anyway, it was easier and sportier, we thought, to leap over the side and drop into the seat.

I will admit that for my sentimental trip in an Aero, I did *not* vault over the side. I couldn't. I had to lift my left leg over the side, sit on top of the seat and wriggle my lower half between the wheel and the seat.

Once in, though, it took just minutes to absorb the glorious throb of the engine, a JAP in this model. Then with wind, rain, hail and sleet battering my face and top half, the adrenalin surged and that wonderful feeling of exhilaration came flooding back.

My journey back in time was in an immaculate carnation-red Aero called Manfred, dating from 1929 and owned by John Hoard, of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. And despite the cold, my face eventually glowed with warmth and I swear the seat got softer and the hail like a warm shower.

After years in the motoring wilderness, driving soft-seated, whispering, automatic saloons, Manfred roared me along dual carriageways and up leafy lanes with all the pleasurable freedom I had found in Freda.

She had a starting handle rather than a starter, but wet or freezing cold I don't remember it giving me much trouble. She had two gears, 1st and 2nd: no reverse. To back out of a driveway meant lifting the light tail and walking it round.

That made parking easy. No backing into a tight space: just drive straight in, often at an angle, then lift the tail to the kerb.

Looking at her picture now, I realise I must have been a bit lax, running round with the offside headlamp taped up to cover the cracks. But although, the lamps were just plain glass, and nobody had yet dreamed up an MoT test, it still would have cost half a crown (12½p) to replace it.

Freda did 65-70mpg when the average price was one shilling and three pence (7p) a gallon. And with the Road Fund Licence, I think, only £4 a year and the price of insurance negligible, I could use her indiscriminately. And did.

Has anybody out there seen my Freda?

THERE are still 2,300 Morgan three-wheelers dotted around the world, some worth up to £20,000. I set out to search for dear old Fiery Freda but did not find her among the cherished 450 roadworthy models in Britain. I did, though, find several built before mine and still in perfect condition; an octogenarian who still regularly drives one round his home town; a girl given one for an engagement present instead of a ring; a husband who roared away from church with his blushing young bride in one; and a thriving, friendly and helpful owners' club.

Nick Taylor, 47, a land surveyor from Loughton, Essex, gave his fiancée a Mog (as they are called) for her engagement present. Well, not so much a complete car; in fact, it was in bits — and still is. "I'll get down to building her completely one day," said Mr Taylor.

I sold YP 9723 for £4 at a lay-by on the Southend Arterial Road in the summer of 1936, but I have not given up trying to find her. My next concentrated search will be among enthusiasts attending the 50th anniversary of the Morgan Three-Wheeler Club at Brooklands next Sunday.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The modern radial tyre

THE inside of a modern radial tyre is made up of fabric cords and steel wire (Vaughan Freeman writes).

The radial ply run at various angles across the tyre from the steel wires or beads, which run within the inner edges of the tyre and butt up against the wheel rim. This radial ply forms the tyre's basic carcass and is made up of rayon, nylon or polyester cords.

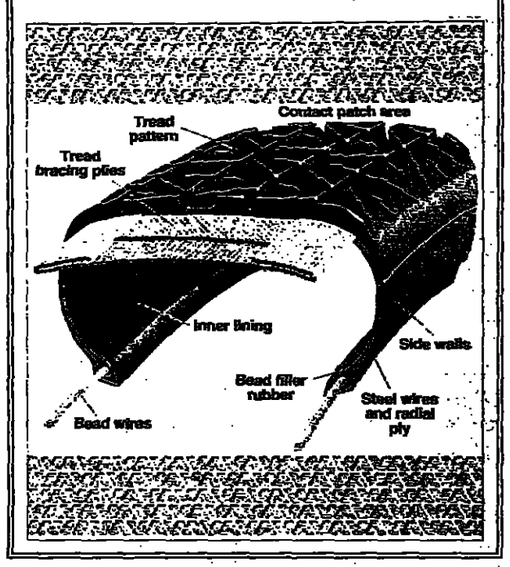
Running across the radial ply and circumferentially around the tyre is a layer of steel wires, often supplemented by nylon or polyester cords. This forms the "belt" which stops the tyre being pulled out of shape by centrifugal forces when it is running at high speed.

This "belt" also stabilises the "contact patch" of the tyre. At any one point, each tyre's contact with the road is roughly a four by five inch area of rubber.

Tyres play a crucial part in the car's suspension because the compressed air inside them makes them work as a spring. It is the air in the tyre rather than the stiffness of the tyre's walls that carries up to 95 per cent of the average saloon car's 2,000 lbs weight.

The tyre's tread pattern is made up of blocks of rubber, between which run channels and small slots called sipes. These allow road surface water to be squeezed out of the way, so that the rubber blocks of the pattern can make contact with the road and provide grip. If the tread is worn, water will build up between the tyre and the road, causing loss of grip and aquaplaning.

The parts of the tyre are made separately and then assembled. The complete assembly is heated in a vulcanising mould and bonded together.



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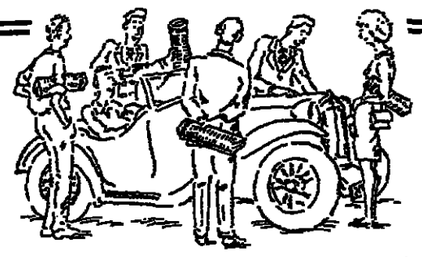
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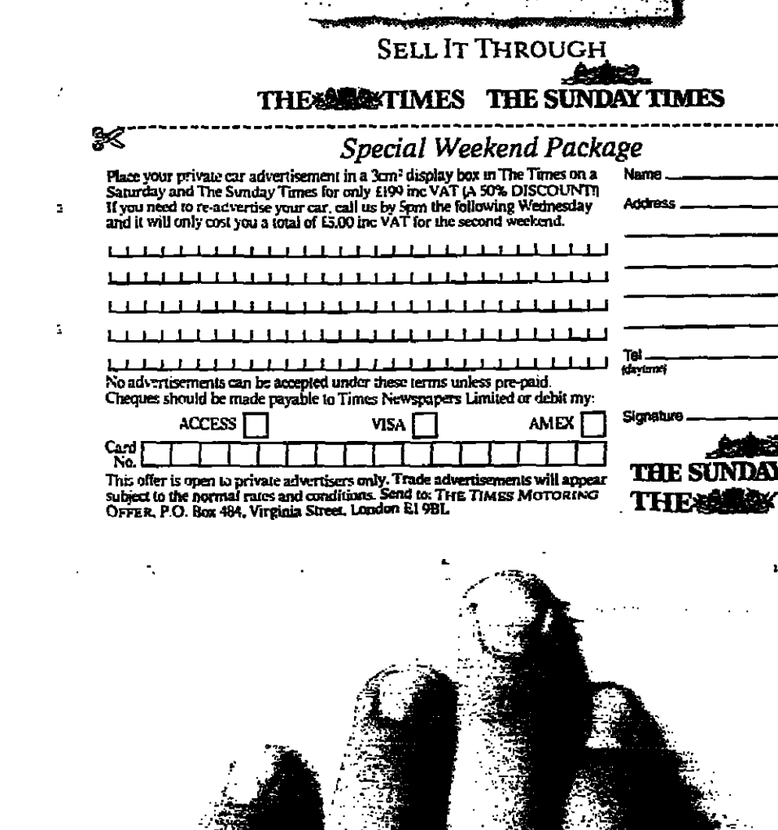
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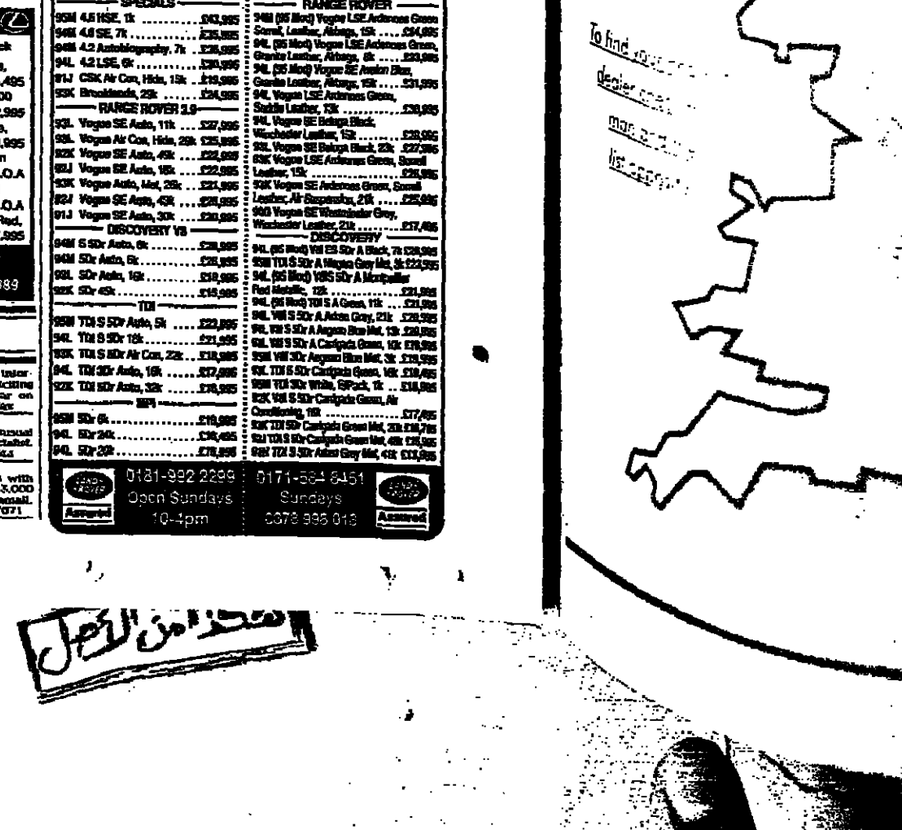
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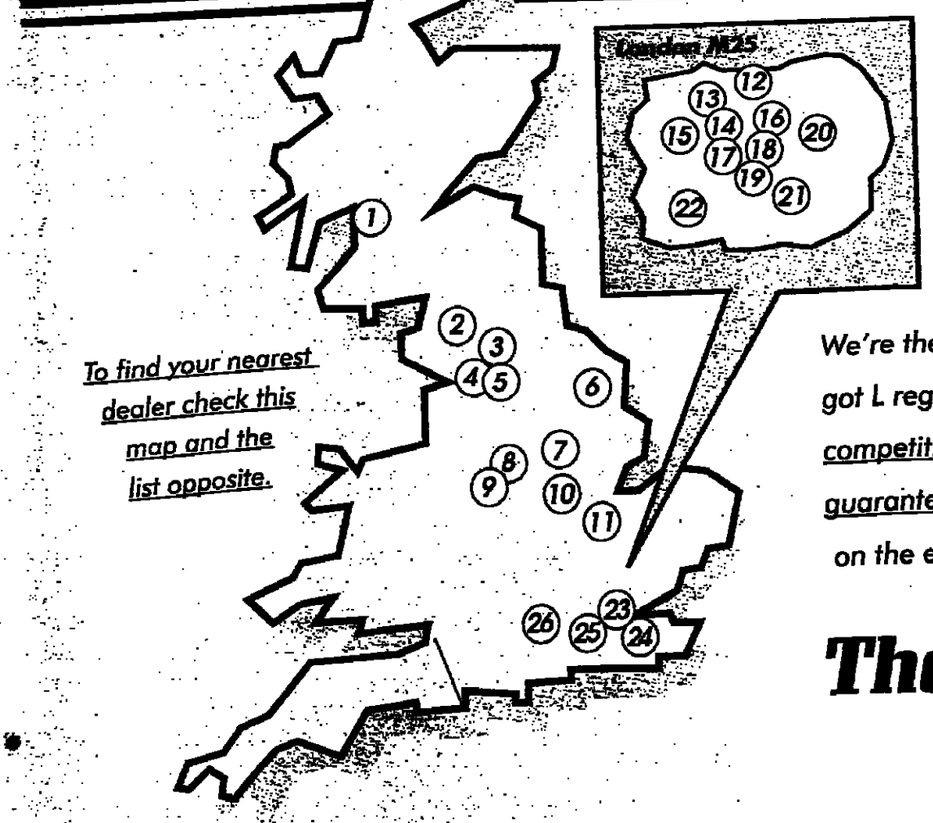
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US giants back 'green' engine

Alan Copps on a 'clean' power unit that can run on all kinds of alternative fuels

Two universities in the United States have signed agreements to evaluate a new form of engine developed in Australia and said by its inventors to be the first environmentally-friendly engine. The experiments have the backing of the three American car giants, General Motors, Ford and Chrysler.

Called the split-cycle engine, it is a two-stroke radial design that is claimed to be virtually emission-free and able to run on both conventional and alternative fuels "from steam to coconut oil". Prototypes are one-twelfth the size and weight of conventional engines producing equivalent power and, because there is no conventional crankshaft, have 600 fewer moving parts.

The company developing the engine is chaired by Sir Jack Brabham, three times world motor racing champion, who said yesterday that he expected a four-cylinder version of it to be running in a motorcycle later this year. He gave his support to the project last year after being asked to take a look at the engine by a potential investor.

"Over the years I have looked at many new engines, but this seemed to be the most promising," he said. "I don't think it is likely to replace the engine in everyone's car. It is likely to finish up in a small vehicle in place of an electric car. It would be very suitable because it would get over the problem of limited range and the need for recharging batteries. It's environmentally-friendly because it burns fuel cleanly and can use any fuel which might be locally available.

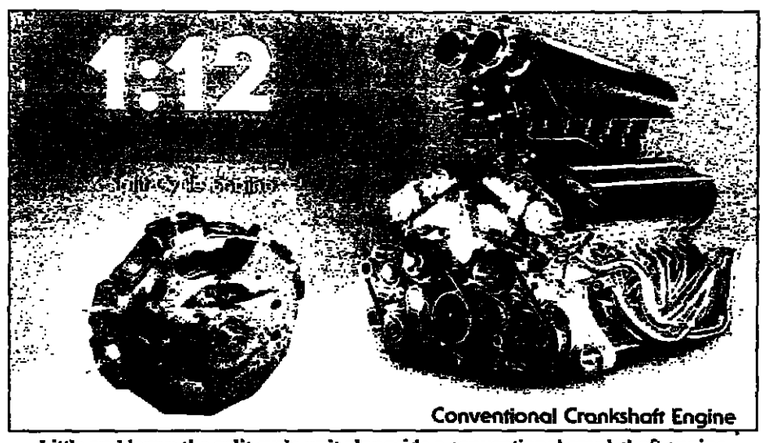
"It could have much greater scope for powering generators or for use as an air compressor or hydraulic pump, because it is so small and portable."

Most of the alternative forms of engine proposed in past decades have been variations on the Wankel rotary form, first used in cars in the 1960s and still used to power the Mazda RX-7. But such engines frequently suffer from problems in sealing the combustion chamber.

The split-cycle engine uses conventional but very small cylinders arranged radially, so no such problems arise. The pistons are driven by cams known as "geneva wheels" and these, in turn, drive cogs which transfer the power to the central drive shaft. Because this design dispenses with the conventional crankshaft, connecting rods and big-end bearings, there is a great reduction in friction.

Rick Mayne, who invented the engine six years ago, says his split-cycle technology company is confident it has proved the principle of the new engine, and is now working on perfecting fuel injection methods and electronics.

The agreements with the University of Michigan to evaluate automotive applications and the University of Houston for aerospace use are part of the American motor industry's response to a challenge issued by President Clinton in 1993 for carmakers to come up with a zero-emission vehicle by the year 2000.



Little and large: the split-cycle unit alongside a conventional crankshaft engine



Showing tonight: a road movie for radio

THE time is some point in the future, the place Britain. The government, desperate to curb pollution, has banned cars. Enter our hero, Ron Koop, leader of the underground car-owning movement (Alan Copps writes).

With the help of James Dean, Eddie Cochran, a silver Porsche, a hearse, an ice cream van, three lorries, an angel and a barrage of traffic wardens, Koop and his disciples struggle to retain the freedom their cars offer.

Another April Fool? No. It is the plot of Britain's, and possibly the world's, first drive-in road movie to be broadcast live on radio. You can hear *Ron Koop's Last Roadshow* tonight on Radio 3 at 10.40pm. But if you want to see it, you need to be among the invited audience on the banks of the Manchester Ship Canal.

The play, starring Stephen Frost (above), whose TV credits include *Mr Bean*, *Murder Most Horrid* and *Blackadder*, is a collaboration between BBC Radio Drama and Industrial and Domestic Theatre Contractors, which specialises in works for specific sites. It will be staged in a specially-created floodlit arena and the audience, seated in their own cars and on buses, will follow the story on their radios as they watch it unfold. The play is written by James Stock, with music by James Mackie.

For last-minute tickets, call 0161-200 2524.

Andrew Pierce runs into Britain's marathon marvel, Eamonn Martin

'I could run most places faster than I drive there'

Eamonn Martin, the Basildon car worker who won the NutraSweet London Marathon in 1993 in his first attempt at the distance, has been tipped to do well again when he runs in the race tomorrow. The 36-year-old is one of the country's most successful long-distance runners of the past decade, claiming golds at the Commonwealth Games and European Cup.

How did you learn to drive?

With a local driving school when I was 17. I passed first time but it was a sign of things to come — he kept telling me to slow down.

What was your first car?

A £120 green Ford Anglia. It was all I could afford. I was learning engineering at college at the time, which was just as well. I could practise on the car. It was the star of the lecture room, a perfect model for the history of engineering studies.

Do you enjoy driving?

I love it for a couple of hours. But as I live close to the M25, my main access route to the rest of the country, it means I am normally behind the wheel for twice as long as I expected. I could run most places quicker.

What is your dream car?

One of the great sports cars, like a Lamborghini or Ferrari. Of course, I haven't driven one. I work for Ford. They are our competitors.

What is your most hated car?

I always thought the Reliant three-wheeler shouldn't be on the road. But as an avid viewer of *Only Fools and Horses*, I have changed my mind. Being an Essex boy, whenever I see one I feel a great surge of affection for Rodney and Del Boy. So I guess now it has to be the Austin Allegro and the drivers that go with it.



What car do you drive now and why?

A top-of-the-range Ford Mondeo. It is a sponsored vehicle. I know you would expect me to say it is great, but it is. Honest.

What is your worst habit in the car?

One hand on the mobile phone and the other on the wheel. I have a packed schedule combining the job and running 120 miles every week of the year. I get most of my preparations arranged on the phone sitting in a traffic jam on the M25.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

When they approach a roundabout, with not a vehicle in sight, and stop. They are worse than runners who bunch on a lane and prevent you getting past. The elbow comes in handy then. I have to resort to the hooter when I am in the car.

PETER TRIEVNOR



Nice little runner: Eamonn drives a Mondeo

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

When I was at college I came to the rescue of a friend who had broken his left arm, which was plastered up to his shoulder. He drove the car and I changed the gears. I hadn't passed my test.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

Two speeding offences within three weeks in Southend-on-Sea. It was on the same dual carriageway and I was late for a running meeting both times. I never won the races either.

What do you listen to in the car?

Sports programmes. You often hear what your friends think of you. I heard Dave Bedford, one of our greatest distance runners, describing me as the "fastest old git" in the race shortly before the 1993 London Marathon. I was faster than the young gits as well. I won.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Develop an elevated section of the M25, as I would like to see it doubled in size. To spare the countryside I would build it on top of the existing one.

What is your most hated car advert?

The one with Nigel Hawthorne and Tom Conti about Volvos and dummies. It reminds me of the time I spent training in the crash laboratory at Ford. They said they never needed a dummy because I fitted the bill.

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A flat on the motorway? No need to play the damsel in distress. It's no longer a problem for today's mechanically correct women, says **Morag Preston**



A tyresome task: but easily fixed by a self-taught woman in the know like Morag Preston

The times they are a changin'

You need neither long arms nor long eyelashes to change a wheel. White knights and damsels in distress are pure fairytale. Women with punctures are out on the hard shoulder, and doing it for themselves.

"I even time myself," says *Peta Flint, 37, a sock manufacturer in Nottingham.* "I can do it in less than ten minutes. I've always had a mechanical bent and at 18 could change a motorbike wheel. The first time I changed the wheel on a car I was 25, and had just passed my driving test. It was a 1958 Wolsley 1500 that cost £10."

Mrs Flint puts my timing to shame but I can also change a wheel. My first experience of a puncture was in a hired car, but I was so overcome by the diminutive size of the spare that my co-driver had to take control. I have since practised by myself, spent quality time with my car, and got dirty with the wheel nuts.

There is a feeling of confidence in just knowing that you have a spare wheel, and a sense of excitement in locating the buried treasure. Then it is in with the jack, off with the hub cap, unscrew the nuts, off with the old and, wey-hey, on with the new. Putting back the wheel nuts, there was a satisfaction that almost had me convinced I had constructed the car from scratch.

A birds and bees initiation in car maintenance is rare, but it is not always restricted to sons. Some daughters are blessed with DIY dads. "My father would say 'Here are four nuts, here's what fits them, now get on with it'," says Amber Upton, 25, a desktop publisher living in Worcestershire. "He taught me how to change a wheel on his Austin A35 when I was in my early teens."

Each year, the RAC handles more than a million breakdown calls from its 2.2 million female members. Last year, 72,500 people called on the RAC to help change a wheel, making it the fourth most popular problem.

According to Mrs Flint: "People don't want to get their hands dirty these days. A lot of men can't change a wheel either, but a simple thing like that should be common knowledge. Women need to be told how easy it is. You don't even need to use your arms — you can use your feet."

Armed with a working jack and faced with wheel nuts that have not been put on too tightly, women are putting some men to shame. "I was driving to a Pink Floyd concert with a boyfriend when I had my first puncture," says Ms Upton. "He just watched as I changed the wheel. It never occurred to him that you could fix a puncture yourself."

Eighty-two per cent of women drivers feel it is important to learn basic car maintenance, according to the RAC, which organises workshops throughout the UK. Emma Brannigan, 26, a writer, attended an evening course in Bristol where members were made to change a wheel. "I was surprised," she says. "I thought it was more difficult."

Carolyn Taylor, 38, a London-based solicitor, says: "It's common sense. The first time I had to change a wheel I was 21 and driving a purple Mini. I was too embarrassed to call out the AA, and wasn't prepared to wait two hours for help, so I read the manual."

Jennifer Pollard, 54, learnt to change a wheel at Kirdford Ladies Club in West Sussex, 20 years ago. "If I was stranded, I didn't want to have to call on mere men. Once the wheel nuts were on too tight, so I had to walk to the nearest garage. They were at lunch, but I borrowed their spider spanner," she says. "The more affluent you become, the more you lose your skills."

Three years ago, Kwik Fit, the tyre and exhaust specialists, introduced a policy to make one in four of its fitters female. "They make first-class fitters," says the company. "They're every bit as good as men. The strength is in the tools."

The real test comes when both partners are in the car and the wheel begins to wobble. Mrs Flint's husband entertains the kids because she is the faster mechanic. Shelley Upton, Amber's mother, is the perfect passenger. Although she does not have a licence, she can change a wheel.

Women tend to drive older cars, especially mothers and students, according to the RAC. "No amount of knowledge compensates for not having the basic equipment," it says. "It's also very handy to carry a piece of carpet to kneel on. Familiarise yourself with the manufacturer's handbook, find the jacking points, practise changing the wheel, and make sure the wheel nuts are not on too tight."

Last word, and a sign of changing times, to Mrs Flint: "Punctures are very annoying. I saw a man stranded on the motorway last week. Once I would have stopped to help, but now I have to consider the children's safety."



Off with the old, on with the new: 'putting back the nuts, there was a sense of satisfaction' PETER TRIEVNOR

DR DASHBOARD

Drive now, pay later – if ever

Q So we're not going to have motorway tolls after all. Why not?

A Because the Government says that the technology is not yet workable. Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, said this week that tolls would only be introduced "some way in the future, if at all".

Q But there are motorway tolls all over the Continent. Why can't we use the same technology?

A European toll roads rely on "toll plazas" where motorists have to stop and pay. They hand over the money or, on some short stretches, simply throw coins into a bucket. That buys a ticket for a length of motorway. But the Government wants to avoid that method here because it would add to congestion rather than ease it.

Q So you mean the whole exercise is about easing congestion, not raising more tax from the poor old motorist?

A Well, when the plan was first put forward, the Department of Transport said it wanted to raise money to fund road improvements. Scepticism is perfectly understandable, though, since the Treasury admits that less than half the annual £14 billion tax taken from motorists is spent on transport.

Q What is this technology that won't work, then?

A The Government wanted to use a "smart card" system. A driver would buy a card, a bit like a phonecard, and insert it into an electronic unit on the dashboard which would indicate how much credit was available. When the car was driven through a motorway checkpoint, a microwave signal would deduct payments. Drivers would be able to recharge the cards when their credit was used up.

Q That doesn't sound too difficult. What's the problem?

A According to officials, the system has not proved reliable enough in tests in Germany. There are also problems over drivers using side roads to avoid the checks.

Q Wouldn't motorway tolls have increased traffic through towns and villages anyway?

A That's what the motoring organisations said. Many complain about congestion on the M25, but in Kent and Surrey it is estimated that the opening of the motorway cut traffic through some villages by 60 per cent.

Q Will they scrap existing tolls now?

A I'm afraid not. The tolls on the Severn, Humber and Dartford bridges are special cases.

Q But at least we won't face any more?

A Life isn't that simple. The Severn tolls have just been increased to pay for a second crossing, due to open next year. Work is also underway on the Northern Birmingham Relief Road, which is being built privately and will be funded by tolls.

Q Are there are any more like that in the pipeline?

A The decision to scrap tolls doesn't affect the four roads for which the Government has invited tenders from private companies. These include an A1-M1 link in Yorkshire, the Cirencester bypass in Gloucestershire, bringing the A1 up to motorway standard around Peterborough, and improving the A69 by bypassing Haltwhistle in Cumbria. But these won't be paid for through direct tolls on the motorist. The companies will bear the cost of building and maintaining the roads and charge the Government for each vehicle that uses them.

● Even Dr Dashboard makes mistakes. Last week's First Aid advice contained an error. If a casualty is breathing, however noisily, don't give resuscitation, just clear the airways and fetch help.



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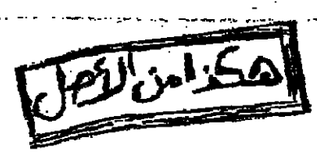
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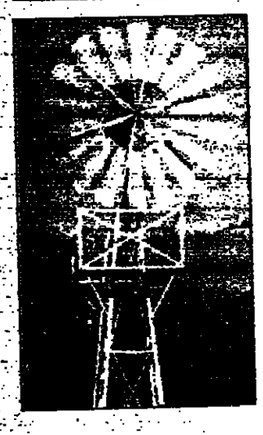


Cooking in Italy with Alastair Little

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PLUS: Easter outings for the children, page 20

OUTDOORS



Welcome to an alternative view of Utopia

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PLUS: Paul Heiney's farmer's diary, page 15

GARDENING



George Plumptre's latest plot revealed

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PLUS: Gardens to visit this spring, page 8

BOOKS



Harpy or heroine: two lives of Elizabeth Taylor

Page 14

PLUS: The last years of the Duchess, page 14

WEEKEND

CONDEMNED: A CAMBRIDGE BOY'S STORY



By Ben Macintyre

It is June 3, 1983, and Nicky Ingram is hot, drunk, stoned and looking for a house to break into and rob with his best friend, Kevin Plummer, their fourth burglary of the day. Dusty, dingy Cobb County, Georgia, is a far cry from the beauties of Cambridge, where Ingram was born 19 years earlier, but he has come a long way since then, all of it downhill: the move to America, his parents' divorce, flunking school, dismissal from the army for drunkenness, his mother's return to England. No hope, no job, no luck. Typical stuff.

Just this afternoon, his extended family is having a picnic but he has not been invited because he is too depressed and drunk for company these days.

So, after 16 beers apiece and a few tabs of LSD, Ingram and his buddy are looking for someone else to rob. They stop at the house of J.C. and Mary Sawyer, middle-aged acquaintances of their families in this tight-knit, fly-blown Southern town.

After that Ingram can't remember anything, he says, because of the booze. But, according to the prosecutors, he was interrupted mid-robbery by the Sawyers, from whom he stole just $70 before tying them to a tree in the back garden, screaming at them for half an hour and then shooting them both in the head. Amazingly, Mary Sawyer survived; rather less surprisingly, Ingram was convicted of murder on his 20th birthday, and bundled off to death row or, to be precise, the Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Centre.

In 1983, Ingram was a nobody, a typical backwater hoodlum from a broken family. Now, after 12 years on death row, he is about to become someone very special: barring a last-minute legal appeal, a reprieve by the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles or the successful intervention of the British Government, on Thursday night Ingram, 32, will become the first British-born man for 50 years to be executed in the United States, and the first in history to die in the electric chair.

Ingram moved to America with his parents when he was still a baby. His mother is a working-class Englishwoman from Cambridge who met his father, a US Air Force serviceman, when he was stationed at Lakenheath air force base, East Anglia. When the family moved back to Georgia, Nicky Ingram and his older brother retained dual citizenship. The condemned man is trying to pressurise the British Government into intervening on his behalf. His mother, Ann Ingram, has written to John Major begging him to intercede with President Clinton to save her son's life.

But Ingram has already missed two previous appointments with Georgia's electric chair, in 1985 and 1989, and his lawyer is pessimistic about his chances of escaping a third time, even if the British Government steps in. "There is still a chance it's going to work, but it's touch and go," says Clive Stafford Smith, the experienced English death-row lawyer born, strangely, in the same Cambridge hospital as Ingram four years earlier.

Stafford Smith has a litany of reasons why Ingram does not deserve to go to the electric chair: his client is mentally ill, he insists, since Ingram suffers from an "idiosyncratic reaction" to alcohol causing total amnesia, and thus cannot be held accountable for what allegedly happened; his friend Kevin Plummer, who agreed to testify for the prosecution in exchange for immunity, was reportedly found to have a bloody flip-flop in his car, and he allegedly failed a lie

Continued on page 3, col 1



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GALLERIES

Richard Cork

RICHARD AVEDON: Half a century of icily professional photography is on display in Richard Avedon's retrospective. The National Portrait Gallery has given him a lavish sequence of spaces, and Avedon fills them with his often outsize images. All black and white, mostly portrait heads, these pictures are the work of a master of coldness. Even the liveliest of his early fashion shots for *Harper's Bazaar* have a glacial perfection about them. And when Avedon trains his zealous lens on elderly men's faces, the unsparing results disclose every wrinkle and fold in their pitted skin. The absence of tenderness can seem cruel, but at its best Avedon's frozen perfection is very satisfying.
National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (0171-306 0055), until June 11.

MARK WALLINGER: Last chance to see a substantial survey of work by a strangely unclassifiable young artist. Mark Wallinger's show at the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham is astonishingly diverse. His paintings of horses are produced with a precision worthy of George Stubbs. But he also makes schoolroom interiors by drawing in chalk on blackboards, and his video installations form a prominent part of the show. Wallinger delights in his unpredictability. He sees no reason why his art should not range over all the possibilities available today, and he even made *A Real Work of Art* by buying a thoroughbred horse which he named and raced — the ultimate example of his fascination with found objects. But Wallinger is equally stimulated by the challenge of realist painting at its most polished.
Ikon Gallery, John Bright St, Birmingham (0121-643 0708), until Apr 1, then at the **Serpentine Gallery**, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (0171-402 6075) from May 10 to June 11.

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

LIVING ROOM: Nick Waplington is justly renowned for his ability to get close to the subjects of his colour photographs, without getting too close. His chosen ground is English suburbia, and in his *Living Room* series he explores the way people actually live, every day and on special occasions. He is finely unpatronising, but his observation is sometimes ironic or even malicious. Does he make himself so inconspicuous that no one remembers he is there? Or are his subjects happy to be complicit, like the contestants in television's weirder talk and game shows? Either way the results are curiously compelling.
Nottingham Castle Museum and Art Gallery, Nottingham (0115 9483504), daily 10am-5.45pm, until May 21.

COLOUR AND NATURE: Patrick Heron and Bridget Riley might not at first seem likely stablemates, he with his passion for free forms, she with her mathematical exactitudes. But then, they are both abstract painters, and more important, they share a delight in brilliant, even lurid colours. This perceived confluence of interest is no doubt the basis of this touring exhibition from the Tate Gallery collection. And in fact the two painters complement each other very well. Even if he could not go along with precisely what they are doing, Matisse would recognise them both.
Norwich Castle Museum, Norwich (01603 223624), Mon to Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2-5pm. The exhibition runs until June 4.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

DIANNE REEVES/JOHN PIZZARELLI: The singers take charge this week. As the boppish Betty Carter enters the second week of her residency at Ronnie Scott's in Soho, her fellow-American, Dianne



Multi-octave: Dianne Reeves

Reeves, arrives for a rare British tour. Blessed with a stunning, multi-octave voice, Reeves has sometimes been almost too versatile for her own good, succumbing to the temptation to cross over to a bland soul-pop formula. Her new album, *Quiet After The Storm*, finds her going back to her jazz roots, with impressive results. Meanwhile, John Pizzarelli, a genial son of New Jersey, is a promising contender in the Harry Connick Jr laid-back crooner stakes, though it is his swing guitar playing which really catches the ear. On *Dear Mr Cole*, his latest trio recording, he tips his hat in the direction of Nat "King" Cole.
***Reeves:* Jazz Café**, Parkway, London NW1 (0171-916 6000), Wed 5 to Fri 7; **Everyman Theatre**, 5-9 Hope Street, Liverpool (0151-709 4776), Sun 9.
***Pizzarelli:* Ronnie Scott's**, Broad St, Birmingham (0121-643 4525), Mon 3 to Sat 8; **Pizza on the Park**, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5273), Sun 9 to Sat 22.

KATHY STOBART: Today is the 70th birthday of one of the few women to have broken into the fraternity of saxophone players. Like Barbara Thompson, Kathy Stobart requires no special pleading; her work, covering the spectrum of styles, speaks for itself. A bandleader in her own right for many years, she also brought her distinctive sound to the Humphrey Lyttelton band. Colleagues from the past and present will be turning out for her birthday tribute. Art Themen, Harry Beckett, Campbell Burnap, Jimmy Skidmore and — naturally — Lyttelton himself will take to the bandstand for the party.
100 Club, Oxford St, London W1 (0171-636 0993), Tue 4, 8pm.

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

LIFE WITH AN IDIOT: The English National Opera prudently warns punters that their British premiere of Schnittke's opera contains "scenes of physical and sexual violence" that may offend some people, but the offence is of course derisory compared to that caused by 80 years of tyranny in Russia, the subject of this oblique and grotesque parable. A married couple is forced to take the eponymous Idiot into their home: he is called Vova (Lenin's pet name) and the domestic violence is a metaphor for what happened to a whole people, described via the absurdist tradition of Russian literature stretching from Gogol to Kharms. Jonathan Moore and David Blight (director and designer) also gave us the memorable ENO *Greek*, so anything may happen. The conductor is Richard Armstrong.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8300), tonight, Fri 7, 7.30pm.

SIEGFRIED: One of the many strengths of Richard Jones's stunning production of the third segment of Wagner's *Ring* cycle is that it clarifies some of the mysteries that caused such a flurry when the first two were unveiled last year: the whole enterprise is emerging as one of the landmark Ring productions of the postwar period — and how nice that it should be happening in London. There is no mystery about the brilliance of Bernard Haitink's conducting, or about individual performances of pole-axing power, especially John Tomlinson's anguished Wotan and Graham Clark's mesmerisingly evil transvestite dwarf.
Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), today, 4pm; Tues 4, 5.30pm.

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

NYMAN AT LARGE: The musical world divides sharply into those who revere Michael Nyman after his work on Jane Campion's *The Piano* and will be thronging to the *South Bank's* three-week celebration of the minimalist composer, and those who feel that Nyman's loud and repetitive music has all the allure of an electric lawnmower without the cutting-edge. The jamboree begins next Friday with an all-night session in which films with Nyman soundtracks — most notably such arty Peter Greenaway classics as *A Zed and Two Noughts* — will be screened "from 9pm to breakfast". Staggering bleary-eyed out of that, you have a few hours to recover before the Michael Nyman Band blasts into action at the



Film composer Michael Nyman

Festival Hall. Later, the festival includes many Nyman scores never before heard in Britain.
***South Bank*, London SE1 (0171-928 8800), Apr 7 to Apr 29.**

ZELENKA AFTER 250 YEARS: The music of the Bohemian composer Jan Dismas Zelenka, who died 250 years ago, has come to the fore recently, and rightly so. It is melodious and quirky, and shot through with a strangely romantic aura. At the Wigmore Hall soloists from the excellent Chamber Orchestra of Europe mix some of his sonatas with those of his slightly more famous contemporary, Johann Sebastian Bach.
Wigmore Hall, London W1 (0171-935 2141), Apr 6, 7.30pm.

ROCK

David Sinclair

JANET JACKSON: She may be the youngest of the nine Jackson siblings, but 28-year-old Janet yields only to Michael in popularity. Her last album, *janet.*, topped the charts in both Britain and America, and the two before that — *Control* and *Janet Jackson's Rhythm Nation 1814* — sold eight million copies *each*. Her shows are enjoyable as much for the dance routines and visual presentations as for anything she sings, *per se*. Although big on themes of self-empowerment, Jackson tends to confuse sex with soul. This promises to be an event with a high quota of bumping and grinding.
Sheffield Arena (0114 2565656), Apr 4; **NEC**, Birmingham (0121-780 4133), Apr 7; **London Arena**, E14 (0171-538 1212), Apr 8; **Wembley Arena**, Middlesex (0181-900 1234), Apr 19, 20, 22.

THE BOO RADLEYS: Taking their name from a character in Harper Lee's novel, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, the Boo Radleys started out six years ago in Liverpool and are now the toast of the British indie-pop circuit. As well as their geographical links with the Beatles, the Boo Radleys share certain stylistic similarities, and their new album, *Wake Up!*, is teeming with catchy melodies and traditional harmony vocals. The four-man group, led by guitarist and songwriter Martin Carr and fronted by singer Sice, is joined on stage by keyboard player Ed Ball and a brass section.
Riverside, Newcastle (0191-261 4386), Apr 3; **Garage**, Glasgow (0141-332 1120), Apr 4; **Irish Centre**, Leeds (0113 244 2999), Apr 5; **Manchester University** (0161-832 1111), Apr 7; **Leadmill**, Sheffield (0114 2754500), Apr 8; **Junction**, Cambridge (01223 412600), Apr 9; **Wulfrun Hall**, Wolverhampton (01902 312030), Apr 10; **Pyramids Centre**, Portsmouth (01705 358608), Apr 12; **Astoria**, London WC2 (0171-434 0403), Apr 13; **Shepherds Bush Empire**, London W12 (0181-740 7474), Apr 29.

DANCE

John Percival

CHAMBER BALLET PRAGUE: The most celebrated Czech choreographer, Jiří Kylián, made a present of his Dvořák ballet, *Evening Songs*, to this company from his homeland, and they perform it for the first time in London during their very welcome week at Sadler's Wells. The rest of the repertoire is all by their founding director, Pavel Smock, a choreographer of rare feeling and directness in his mixture of folk, classic and modern dance, almost always to music by Czech composers, Janáček and Smetana, plus the amusing *Divertimento* to Mozart. Two programmes alternate through the week; well worth seeing.
***Sadler's Wells Theatre*, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (0171-713 6000) Tues 4 to Fri 7 at 7.30pm, Sat 8, at 4pm and 8pm.**

MARK MORRIS: The last week of his first British tour has a varied programme. It ranges from a strange, gripping ensemble work, set to the contemporary American composer Lou Harrison's *Grand Duo*, to Morris's light-hearted, light-footed solo on Gershwin's *Three Preludes*, taking in also the Brahms *New Love Song Waltzes* and country-and-western songs by Bob Willis.
Grand Theatre, Blackpool (01253 28372), today at 7.30pm; **Birmingham Rep** (0121-236 4455), Tues 4 and Wed 5 at 7.30pm.

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

***TWELFTH NIGHT:* Ian Judge's** warm revival, which delighted all but chronic curmudgeons at Stratford last year, launches what promises to be a strong London season for the RSC. The pleasures include Emma Fielding's tiny, touching Viola and Desmond Barrit as a Malvolio with a face like a rhino high on battery acid.
Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891). Now previewing, 7.15pm; *matinées: today*, Wed 5, 2pm; opens Thu 6, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; matinées: Apr 13, 15, 2pm; in repertoire from Apr 20.

***DANGEROUS CORNER:* Have** you ever wished you had the chance to relive a day, an hour, a moment that had disastrous repercussions? That is the subject of J.B. Priestley's thriller, morally a less earnest piece than *An Inspector Calls*, but just as ingenious and tensely plotted.
Whitehall, Whitehall, London SW1 (0171-369 1735). Evenings at 8pm; matinées: Wed at 3pm, Sat at 5pm.

● *More theatre, page 6.*

FILMS

Geoff Brown

FIORILE (12): No match for the Taviani brothers' best work, though even a diluted film by the master Italian story-tellers contains enough limpid beauty, social observations and human warmth to delight the viewer. Interwoven tales trace the 200-year history of a Tuscan family dogged by the curse of gold stolen from the coffers of Napoleon's army. The scale is epic, but there is no spectacular visual display. With Galatea Ranzi, Claudio Bigagli, Michael Vartan.
Everyman (0171-435 1525); **MGM Tottenham Crt Rd** (0171-636 6148); **Minema** (0171-235 4225).

THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE (PG): Nigel Hawthorne reigns supreme as George III, racked with agonies mental, physical and political in the film version of Alan Bennett's play.
Barbican (0171-638 8891); **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742); **Gate** (0171-727 4043); **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691); **MGMs: Haymarket** (0171-839 1527), **Tottenham Crt Rd** (0171-636 6148); **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666); **Screen/Hill** (0171-435 3366); **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332); **Warner** (0171-437 4343).

● *More films, page 6.*

CHILDREN

LONDON

Poor But Clever: Hear stories about children who had no money but who used their wits to win in the game of life.
Ragged School Museum, 46-48 Copperfield Road, Bow, E3 (0181-980 6405). Tomorrow, 2.15-2.45pm (ages 3-6), 3-4pm (age 6 and over). Free.

The Three Billy Goats Gruff and Other Tales: Stories, songs and rhymes including the tale of Aesop's race between the hare and the tortoise told with rod puppets.
Puppet Theatre Barge, Little Venice, Blomfield Road, W9 (0171-249 6876). Today, tomorrow and every Sat and Sun in Apr, plus daily Apr 15-23, 3pm. Tickets adults £5, children £4.50.

CORNWALL

Tintagel Castle: Explore the ruins and walkways of the legendary birthplace of King Arthur. You may recognise the ruins from the television series, *The Buccaneers*.
Tintagel Castle, Tintagel (01840 770329). Open daily, 10am-6pm. Admission: adults £2.20, children £1.10.

OXFORDSHIRE

***Living History 1645:* See** the Manor as it was in 1645 during the English Civil War.
Sulgrave Manor, Sulgrave, Banbury (01295 760205). Today until Sat 9, 10.30am-5pm; next Sun, 10.30am-3pm. Admission: adults £3.80, children £1.90, family £11.

SCOTLAND

The Puppet and Animation Festival: See *The Adventures of Peter Rabbit and Benjamin Bunny* or the story of *The Tailor of Gloucester* performed by Ian Turbitt's Puppet Theatre (ages 4-8). Enjoy *Major Mustard's Travelling Show* (different shows for ages 3-12) and *The Adventures of Ivan the Slug* (age 5 and over). There is also Oscar Wilde's classic, *The Selfish Giant* (age 5 and over). *When I Met Skark*, performed by Lempen Puppets (age 5 and over) and *The Tragical Comedy of MacPunch*, a funny version of Macbeth (age 7 and over). Plus lots of workshops. Events taking place across Edinburgh, East and West Lothian, Stirling and Clydesdale.
For information contact: The Netherbow, 43-45 High Street, Edinburgh (0131-556 9579).



Lempen Puppets perform *When I Met Skark*

Animal Handling Classes: Close encounters with snakes, frogs, stick insects and hamsters.
Edinburgh Zoo, Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh (0131-334 9171). Mon-Sat, 9am-6pm; Sun, 9.30am-6pm. Admission: adults £5.50, children £2.80, family £14.90. Classes 70p. Booking advisable.

SHROPSHIRE

Boscobel House and Royal Oak: Discover the secret hiding places in this house used by the fugitive King Charles II after the battle of Worcester in 1651. Find the Royal Oak, the tree where he is supposed to have hidden as Cromwell's troops searched below.
Boscobel House, near Wolverhampton (01902 850244). Open daily, 10am-6pm. Admission: adults £3.30, children £1.70.

YORKSHIRE

The Wonderful World of Horses: An entertaining performance by the dancing white stallions following the traditions of the Spanish Riding School of Vienna.
Sheffield Arena, Broughton Lane, Sheffield (0114 256 5656). Today, 2pm, 7.30pm; tomorrow, 2pm. Tickets: adults from £12.50, children from £9.50; Wembley Arena, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex (0181-900 1234). Wed 5, Thur 6, 7.30pm. Tickets: adults from £12.50, children from £9.50.

Exhibition of Dolls Houses and Furniture: *Nunnington Hall, Nunnington, York (01439 748283). Opens today, Tues-Thur, Sat, Sun, 2pm-5pm. Admission: adults £3.50, children £1.50, family (2 adults and 3 children) £7.*

HEATHER ALSTON

Ruth Gledhill hears a judgment delivered at Lincoln's Inn Chapel, central London

AT YOUR SERVICE

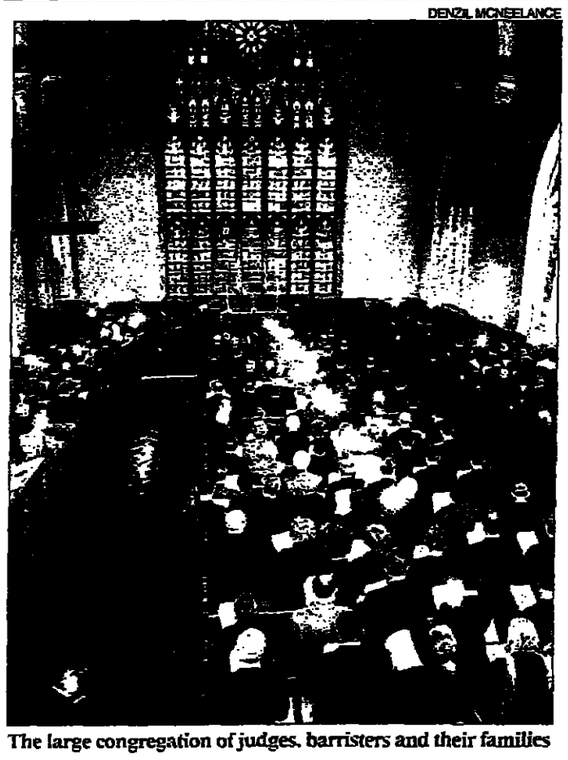


WE must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, the Bible warns, but nothing had prepared me for such a day of judgment among earthly judges and barristers, including the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, at Lincoln's Inn. It was only when Bishop Michael Marshall, adviser on evangelism to the Archbishop of Canterbury, dared to stand up to deliver a judgment of his from the pulpit, that I believed the psalmist's words, that God judgeth the righteous and is angry with the wicked.

Bishop Marshall was nominated by a Member of the Inn for *The Times* Preacher of the Year Award after he delivered what was the first in a series of sermons, titled "Wigs and Mitres", on the church, law and judiciary. The setting could not have been more appropriate. We sat in the original pews made in 1623 by "Price the Joyner", although behind us the bell, captured in 1596 at the siege of Cadiz, was silent. By custom the bell is tolled whenever a Lincoln's Inn bencher has died, and is thought to have inspired John Donne's words: "Never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee." Donne was preacher to Lincoln's Inn before he became Dean of St Paul's.

The present preacher, Canon Norman, one of the few clergy still able truly to intone, seemed almost to be passing sentence as he opened with words from Psalm 143: "Enter not into judgment with thy servant, O Lord: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified." The sense of impending doom magnified: "Dearly beloved, the Scripture moveth us in sundry ways to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of Almighty God."

DENZIL MCNEELANCE



The large congregation of judges, barristers and their families

The congregation, which normally averages 50 barristers, judges, students and their families, was unusually large at 250 because of solicitors and members of Inns of Court who had come to hear the bishop. "How long will ye give wrong judgment: and accept the persons of the ungodly," we sang in the psalm, and listened to the lesson from Romans, where St Paul argues that the Christian's duty to God involves obedience to the State.

Bishop Marshall preached on the "schizoid fragmentation of the way we see the world" and warned of the rising "flood waters of anarchy and self-destruction". He said: "Once upon a time, religion, religious truth and justice, Wigs and Mitres, were packaged in the same compartment, in the public truth category along with scientific truth, medical truth and the laws of the universe." Since the Enlightenment, they had been transferred to another department labelled "private opinion". Now, "we are supposed to believe that religion, ethics and morality and therefore by implication, justice itself, are better not taught at all, but rather put on hold until youngsters are old enough to make up their own minds." He said: "Truth and beauty really do belong together in the same way that lies and ugliness also belong together. So the call for law and order is not the slogan and propaganda of right-wing reactionaries. Rather, law and order are the basic prerequisites for the upbuilding of a civilised and civil society." His warnings became more apocalyptic as he neared the end: "As we were reminded in a similar crisis in our national history, all that is needed for evil to flourish is for good men and women to do nothing," he said, arguing that the church was necessary for the common wealth. He released us at last, but only when he reached the end of his final sentence, with the word "Amen".

The second sermon in the series Wigs and Mitres will be preached at Lincoln's Inn by the Right Rev Hugh Montefiore, former Bishop of Birmingham, on November 26, 1995, 11.30am. All services, (which take place during legal term time only), are open to the public.

Lincoln's Inn Chapel, The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, London, WC2A 3TL. Tel: 0171-405 1393.

DEAN OF THE CHAPEL: The Hon Mr Justice Drake

PREACHER OF LINCOLN'S INN: Canon Bill Norman

ARCHITECTURE: Perpendicular Gothic with a bleakly Dickensian feel, and reminiscent of the High Court. ★★★

MUSIC: Music by Bach, Elgar, traditional hymns and mixed voluntary choir. ★★★★

LITURGY: Morning Prayer from the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer*. ★★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Coffee before, judicious lunch in the Great Hall afterwards. Every Sunday after the service, the congregation is invited to join the Masters of the Bench and Members of the Inn in the Benchers' Rooms. ★★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: A chance to examine our own consciences, with God as our judge. ★★★★

★ *stars are awarded to five.*



هكذا أمن الاحتلال

continued from page 1

detector test: Mrs Sawyer said her attacker had long hair and a 'hairy chest,' while Ingram had neither; none of Ingram's fingerprints was ever found in the Sawyers' house, while his clothes revealed no blood.

Then there are procedural objections. According to Stafford Smith, most of the jurors who convicted Ingram believed he would never be executed, expecting instead that, like so many other death row cases, his would simply get bogged down in endless appeals. The Supreme Court rejected that line of argument last month.

None of this has altered the view of the Georgia courts that he is guilty beyond "reasonable doubt" and, barring the unexpected, Nicky Ingram's life will end next week in a most dramatic and unpleasant way. Just before 7pm, he will be removed from the cell next to the death chamber where he has remained, on suicide watch, since his execution date was set. His blond hair and legs will be shaved to ensure proper contact with the moistened copper electrodes; he will be secured to the wooden chair by leather straps, a metal clamp placed around his forehead and a mask fixed over his face.

A prison official will then throw the switch to send a 1,900-volt shock through the 5ft 8in of Ingram's body for 30 seconds, followed by a 2,400-volt shock for 60 seconds. This will be repeated automatically by machine until a doctor confirms there is no pulse. Outside the prison, death-penalty enthusiasts will cheer — as they have 18 times since Georgia reintroduced capital punishment in 1976 — and the 113 men still on Georgia's death row will hear them.

The electric shocks cause cardiac arrest and respiratory paralysis, but death can take up to 30 minutes depending on how effectively an individual's body conducts electricity, while the condemned man literally fries inside and out. Observers report the smell of burning flesh and smoke rising from the body. The brain reaches a temperature of 60C. Since 1977, there have been seven botched executions by electrocution, in which the prisoner did not die after the first electric charge, including one in Georgia. Research suggests that, even when a condemned prisoner's limbs stop working after the first electric shock, he still feels pain and is aware of what is happening.

The electric chair was introduced in America in 1888, on the grounds that it was more humane than hanging. Since then, many states — including New York, which only recently reintroduced the death penalty but still leads the historical tally of executions, followed by Georgia — have adopted lethal injection as a quicker and less shocking execution technique than "Old Sparky".

As one of his last-ditch strategies, Stafford Smith has filed a suit against the US Department of Corrections, claiming Georgia's method of execution is inhumane and violates Ingram's civil rights. Dr Harold Hillman, a neurobiologist at the University of Surrey, is expected to testify that electrocution is similar in effect to "burning someone alive". But, after fighting some 200 cases on behalf of Southern death row inmates, the English lawyer admits he is clutching at straws.



After spending nearly 12 years on death row in Georgia, British-born Nicky Ingram, 32, is to be sent to the electric chair on Thursday evening



Nicky's mother, Ann Ingram, last week wrote to John Major asking him to intervene in the case

Major's dilemma: whether or not to intervene

JOHN MAJOR has consistently refused to get involved in the case of Nicky Ingram.
Ingram's lawyers have appealed to the Prime Minister to plead for clemency when he meets President Clinton in Washington next week, but Downing Street has made it clear that this will be unlikely.
Foreign Office officials point out that the British Government usually takes the view that its citizens must expect to be subject to the laws of the country where they live, even if that includes capital punishment, flogging or life imprisonment for drugs trafficking, and there are no precedents.
But Foreign Office Minister of State, Douglas Hogg, has not completely ruled out a last-minute plea. He says:

"We are waiting for all legal avenues to be exhausted before deciding whether to consider an appeal for clemency. Due legal process has not yet been completed and it would not be appropriate for us to intervene at this stage. However, we continue to watch the case."
But other issues, such as Ireland, will be considered of far greater importance when the Prime Minister makes his visit to Washington and, even if he does manage to raise the case, Foreign Office officials and even Amnesty International are unsure if it can make any difference because the final decision about clemency rests with Georgia, not the White House.

ALICE THOMSON



Whether or not electrocution is a "cruel and unusual punishment" and thus technically outlawed under the US constitution, it is certainly expensive. According to the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, the average execution, including trials, appeals and an average of eight years in prison, costs $2.3 million, while a life sentence of 40 years in prison costs under $700,000.

But the expense, the "barbarity of this medieval torture" in Stafford Smith's words, and the lingering uncertainty over Ingram's conviction do not trouble Michael Bowers, the attorney-general for Georgia. Bowers will witness the execution, along with a handful of observers from the judiciary, the press and the prison service, not because he has to, but because he wants to. He has no qualms about going ahead with the execution. At his side will be his fellow observers, picked by the prison authorities from a list of volunteers. "Why should I have any difficulties with it? He's violated the law, he's been given more due process than in English law, he's committed a heinous murder and he deserves to be executed. I don't have much sympathy for the guy," Bowers says.

Perhaps oddly, another person who feels that "If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well it were done quickly" is Ingram himself.

"He hates what they do to him in prison, and at this point he just wants to get it over with, one way or the other," Stafford Smith said.

In an interview last month with Stafford Smith, Ingram indicated that he expects to die. "I believe the sentence is going to be carried out. I've believed that since the day the jury said it in court," he says.

On Georgia's death row, knitting needles are not permitted, so Ingram spends his time crocheting presents for his family. Sometimes he writes glum poetry to his English pen-pal, 68-year-old Betty de Fazio. For 12 years, Ingram has lived 21 out of every 24 hours in his single cell, measuring six feet by nine feet. He has only seen his mother and other visitors through a scratched Perspex screen. He has never been allowed to do any work in prison and, recently, his twice-weekly visits to the exercise yard were stopped.

Ingram has even been denied the traditional condemned man's last request after Georgia banned cigarette sales in its prisons at the start of the year. "Nick's a smoker, but we haven't been allowed to bring him any tobacco," complains another of his lawyers, Jeffrey Ertel.

When Ingram's best friend Tom Stephens — whom he met on death row after Stephens was convicted of being an accomplice to murder — went to the chair on June 29, 1993, Ingram was distraught. "Nicky wanted to go in to the execution chamber for him," Stafford Smith says.

"Everyone knew he did not take anyone's life," Ingram told his lawyer. "Tom was just a kind man, you know."

Stafford Smith admits that, at the time of the Sawyer murder, Ingram was wild and criminal, a disaster waiting to happen. "He's had 12 years to sit and think, and he's a very different person, very quiet and reflective. He's not a Christian, but he's very spiritual. He has strong beliefs in some sort of afterlife."

Ingram also claims to have transformed. "I have missed everything I would have liked to have experienced ... I'm not the crazy, drunk kid that I was," he says.

He has learned other things too, on death row: such as the fact that electrocuted inmates are swiftly cremated, so that their families do not see the physical effects on the human body of 2,400 volts administered in regular bursts. He has also heard the rumours, which the prison authorities seldom trouble to deny, that the executioners will sometimes make the chair "malfunction" to increase the pain for "uncooperative" death row inmates. Whether true or not, it is an effective way to keep order on the prison block.

"You end up dead however they kill you," Ingram told his lawyer, with grim resignation.

He has had plenty of opportunity to reflect on the past, as well as the short future, and the different life he would have led if the Ingram family had stayed in Cambridge, like Clive Stafford Smith. Ann Ingram was just 19 when she gave birth to Nicholas, her second son by the dashing American air force serviceman, Johny Ingram. Two more children came after Ingram left the service and took the family back to Cobb County, but the couple divorced in 1973. Mrs Ingram won custody, but then returned the children to their father. The teenage Ingram was devastated when his mother decided to return to Cambridge in 1980, and then remarried. Citizens of Cobb County say the teenager rapidly headed off the rails after his mother's departure, just three years before the murder. Mr and Mrs Ingram have since remarried in order to face their own and their son's ordeal together.

"Ann Ingram has such a guilt complex for leaving him," Stafford Smith says. "Now she's really trying to do the motherly thing."

In an emotional letter to John Major last week, Ann Ingram wrote: "I feel tremendous guilt and pain because I was not there for him enough when he was a child ... it is unimaginable, and makes me cry every time I think about it, that the state of Georgia wants to put my Nicky into a chair and roast him to death with 2,400 volts of electricity."

She concluded: "Nicky and I are at the mercy of the Americans, but I do not believe the Americans will be merciful unless someone with more power and influence than me asks for clemency."

On Wednesday, the day that Ingram finally learns if his execution will be carried out, Mr Major will leave America after a three-day visit during which he may, but probably will not, raise the question of Ingram's execution with the Clinton administration. Anti-death penalty campaigners claim that a similar punishment inflicted on a British-born individual in any other country would be likely to prompt the most vociferous objections, but that a desire to ensure a diplomatically tranquil visit by Mr Major to Washington may preclude any reference to the subject.

It seems strange that a story beginning in the small-town obscurity of rural Georgia should end up as the stuff of international diplomacy, for the tale of Nicky Ingram is classic America macabre.

Even Ingram's own words are Southern lachrymose Gothic: the boy born to the fens of England, went to America, and to the bad, was condemned to be killed after a killing, and now stares out of his death-row cell. He looks past the razor-wire and concrete of the prison yard "Off in the distance there's a line of trees. But you can watch the sunset," he says.

'I believe the sentence is going to be carried out. I've believed that since the day the jury said it in court'

Cover: "Electric Chair" by ANDY WARHOL
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Nicky Ingram on death row by SOUTH COAST
Ann Ingram in Georgia by JUSTIN SUTCLIFFE

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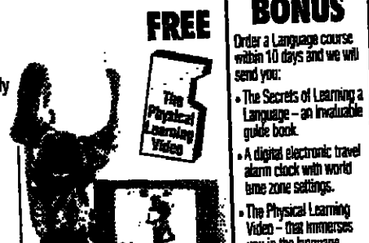
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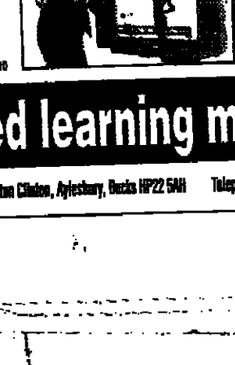
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Monday 3 April 7.30 pm	FLORILEGIUM — Early Music & Baroque Series. *F. Couperin: Sonata and Suite La Françoise from Les Nations*; J.S. Bach: Sonata in C minor BWV1079 from *The Musical Offering*; Sonata in C BWV1037; Sonata in G BWV1038, Sonata in G BWV1039. £10, £8, £6, £4
Tuesday 4 April 1.05 pm NB: starting time	SUSAN GRITTON soprano, *ANDREW WEST piano* — Lunchtime Concert. Schumann: Liederkreis Op 39. Mélodies by Fauré, Hahn and Bizet. Supported by Lloyds Music Foundation and the City of Westminster. £3 (concs £1) — YCAT
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Wednesday 5 April 9.00 pm NB: starting time	MARCELO BRATKE piano. Webern: Variations Op.27; Schoenberg: 6 Little Pieces Op.19; Berg: Sonata Op 1; Villa-Lobos: A Prole do Bebê No.1; Milhaud: Saudades do Brasil Book 2; Nazareth: 4 Brazilian Tangos. £10, £8, £6, £4. Sponsored by VARIG Brazilian Airlines — Anglo-European Arts
Thursday 6 April 7.30 pm	SOLOISTS OF THE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF EUROPE. Douglas Boyd, Rachel Frost, Marieke Blankestijn, Matthew Wilde, Erno Sebestyen & Ursula Duetschler. Zelenka 250th Anniversary Concert. Zelenka: *3 Sonatas for 2 Oboes etc*; Bach: 2 Violin Sonatas BWV1014-15. £12, £10, £8, £6 — Wigmore Hall
Friday 7 April 7.30pm	SILVIA TORAN piano. Falla: Fantasia Bætica; Scriabin: Sonata No.3 Op.23; *Liszt: Sonata in B minor (1854)*. £10, £8, £6, £4 — Helen Sykes Artists' Mgt/Musica Clasica of Madrid
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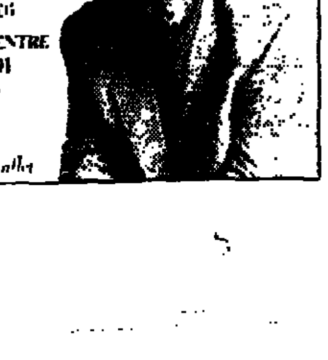
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Tomor 2 April 4.00pm	BARRY DOUGLAS piano Barbican Celebrity Recitals Series. Beethoven Sonata in C sharp minor, *Moonlight* Chopin Sonata No.2 in B flat minor, *Funeral March* Schubert Impromptus Nos 2, 3 & 4, D899 Fantasy in C, D760, *Wanderer*. £6 £10 £14 £18 — Barbican Centre
Tomor 2 April 7.30pm	MAHLER FESTIVAL PART 2 London Symphony Orchestra, Michael Tilson Thomas cond. Dame Moura Lympany piano, Ko Ishikawa sho. Takemitsu Ceremonial (UK premiere) Weber Konzertstück in F minor Mahler Symphony No 9. £6 £10 £14 £16.50 £22 £30 — LSO Ltd

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MOZART Piano Concerto No.23
VIVALDI The Four Seasons
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IAN WATSON conductor, CATHERINE BOTT soprano, JUSTIN LAVENDER ten, ENGLISH CHAMBER CHOIR
£8.50, £11.50, £16.50, £18.50, £21

EASTER SUNDAY 16 APRIL at 7.30 pm
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Madam Butterfly, Manon Lescaut
Gianni Schicchi, La Bohème
La Fanciulla del West, Tosca
Turandot – including Nessun Dorma
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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Sat 1 Apr 7.30	BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Alexander Lazarev (cond) Nathalie Stutzmann (mezzo) Wagner Overture, Tannhäuser; Mahler Kindertotenlieder; Shostakovich Symphony No.15. £10 (unreserved) — BBC Radio 3 FM
Sun 2 Apr 11.00	BACH: ST MATTHEW PASSION The Bach Choir, English Chamber Orchestra, Sir David Willcocks, W White, N Jenkins, J Howarth, C Wyn-Rogers, R Edgar-Wilson, S Roberts, H Dawkins, J Watts. Sponsor: Unilever. £29, £19, £14, £8 (ONLY) — *BC
Sun 2 Apr 7.30	GRAND OPERA GALA inc excerpts from The Thieving Magpie, La Bohème, Carmen, Madame Butterfly, Nabucco, Il Trovatore, La Traviata, Aida, Barber of Seville, Cavalleria Rusticana, Rigoletto, Turandot. £22.50, £19.50, £16.50, £13.50, £9.50 — Victor Hochhauser
Mon 3 Apr 7.30	ROTTERDAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Claus Peter Flor (cond) Andreas Haefliger (pno) Beethoven Ov. Leonora No.2; Mozart Piano Conc. K.488; Shostakovich Sym No.10. £30, £23, £17, £12, £7 — *Intermusica Artists' Mgt Ltd*/*SBC
Wed 5 Apr 7.30	THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC Resident at the RFH. Roger Norrington (cond) Amanda Roocroft (sop) Hakan Hagegard (btone) Mahler Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen; Symphony No.4; £30, £21, £17, £13, £8, £5 — *Lon Phil
Fri 7 Apr 7.30	THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC Resident at the RFH. Martyn Brabbins, Emma Johnson. Walton Suite: Henry V; Barber Adagio for Strings; Dankworth Clarinet Conc; Weill Suite, The Threepenny Opera; Gershwin American in Paris. £10, £5 — *Lon Phil

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Sat 1 Apr 7.45	PIANO CONCERTO FESTIVAL: VIENNA CLASSICS London Soloists Ch Orch, Josefowitz, Fiona Cross, Richard Berry, Cécile Ousset. Schubert Rondo; Mozart Clar Conc; Strauss Horn Conc; Beethoven Pno Conc No.4. £14, £12, £9, £7 — *LSCO
Sun 2 Apr 7.45	HANDEL: MESSIAH City of London Choir, Milton Keynes City Orchestra, Hilary Davan Wetton (cond) Jennifer Perry, Robin Blaze, Wynford Evans, Stephen Richardson. Sponsor: Bankers Trust Company. £12, £10, £8.50, £6.50 — *CLC
Mon 3 Apr 7.45	BACH: MASS IN B MINOR Whitehall Choir, London Sinfonia, Christopher Herrick (cond) Libby Crabtree, Emily Bauer-Jones, Tom Phillips, Charles Pott. £14, £12, £10, £8, £6 — *Whitehall Choir
Tue 4 Apr 7.45	WAR & PEACE CONCERT CELEBRATING VE DAY Insurance Orch, Paul Hoskins (cond) Malcolm Binns. Walton Spitfire, Prelude and Fugue (The Few of the Few); Rachmaninov Piano Conc No.2; Sibelius Sym No.2. £15, £13, £10, £8, £6 — *IOS
Wed 5 Apr 7.45	THE GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA The Legend Lives On. The 40's: War and Peace. All-time Glenn Miller favourites in their original arrangements – relive the spirit of the Forties in this great evening of Glenn Miller magic. £17, £13, £8 — Raymond Gubbay
Thu 6 Apr 7.45	HENRY PURCELL: THE ENGLISH GENIUS Locke Psyche. *New London Consort, Philip Pickett (dir)* Catherine Bott, Christopher Robson, Andrew King, Michael George, Simon Grant. £17.50, £15, £12, £8 (ONLY) — *SBC
Fri 7 Apr 9pm to breakfast	MICHAEL NYMAN ON THE SOUTH BANK: All Night Films. Nyman/Greenaway classics The Cook The Thief and Walk Through H; & film/music collaborations The Kiss, Making a Splash and The Final Score. £10 — *SBC/Serious Speakout

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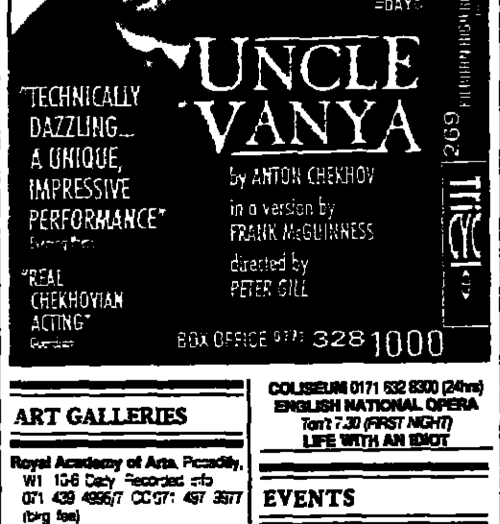
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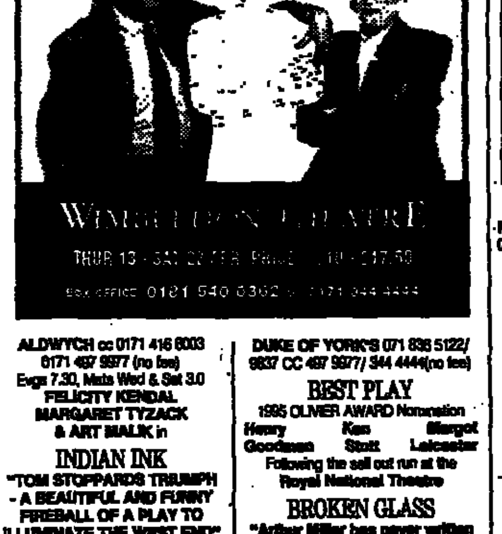
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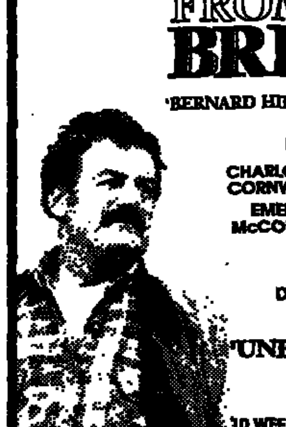
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هكذا من الأصل

Another winner for critics to hate

That cricket-loving lyricist, Sir Tim Rice, appears to have displaced the sadly indisposed Stephen Fry as Most Hated Luvvie of the Month. This week he won an Oscar — his second in three years, and one of only four picked up by Britain. But to judge from the venom of the newspaper coverage, you would have thought that he had mugged Hugh Grant and violated Elizabeth Hurley. Or even vice versa.

"We could have done without the Oscar accorded to Elton John and Tim Rice for the *slurpy*, if popular, song *You Can Feel The Love Tonight* from *The Lion King*," Derek Malcolm sniffed in *The Guardian*. "It may encourage further excesses of bland music-making and clichéd lyrics."

Well, it might. Presumably the fastidious Mr Malcolm would prefer Sir Harrison Birtwistle to be engaged to write songs for Disney films. On the other hand, Rice's Oscar might encourage other British writers and performers to believe that they, too, can compete with America's finest and carry off the trophies.

I admire Rice. There, I've written it and I don't regret it. He has survived a partnership with Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber. He has survived an even more strenuous partnership with Elaine Paige. He has survived the disaster of *Blondel* — the world's first musical about the Crusades, and almost certainly the last. He has even survived the humiliation of *Chess*'s debacle on Broadway: "a cock-up of cataclysmic proportions," as he once delicately and only too accurately described it.

Now he has stopped being a half-forgotten survivor and started becoming a ubiquitous winner. What's more, he has done it without pandering to the Hollywood gush-machine. In the run-up to his win at the 1993 Oscars, for instance, he was memorably absent on more important business. "Where's Tim when all this is happening to him?" asked an incredulous Lloyd Webber. "He's off in South Africa watching bloody cricket."

This time, he did get to Los Angeles, only to baffle the whole of America, and delight fellow Englishmen, with an acceptance speech in which he thanked Denis Compton for inspiration. For that, we can forgive him even *Blondel*.

Undefying spectacle of the decade? That will be the moment when Lord Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council, hands over a £45 million lottery cheque to pay for a building designed by his own deputy chairman, Sir Richard Rogers.

We have not reached that stage yet — but almost. The biggest lottery allocation announced by

WEEK IN THE ARTS



RICHARD MORRISON

the Arts Council on Thursday was the £980,000 to the South Bank for "project development". And the project to be developed? It is Rogers's amusing scheme to build a "crystal palace" over the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery. A scheme that will one day require a further £45 million of lottery dosh.

Why it costs a million quid to do a "feasibility study" is something you must ask an architect to explain. The real point is that the Arts Council appears to be giving a massive (and very profitable) thumbs-up to the architectural firm of its own deputy chairman.

Not for a moment do I suggest impropriety. I am sure that Rogers left the room at the appropriate time, that "Chinese walls" were in place, that nothing was fixed over a Hampstead dinner table, that not a single nod and certainly no winks were exchanged.

I also accept that talented practitioners, such as Rogers, should serve on the Arts Council. But surely, in this instance, the phrase "such as Rogers" is significantly different from "Rogers himself".

The public has put huge sums into the lottery. Decisions about how that loot is distributed should be as transparent as Rogers's crystal palace. Lord Gowrie should find himself a new deputy chairman — preferably one of the 20 million people who have *lost* on the lottery, rather than a chap destined to be the biggest winner.

Of all the noble things to come out of lotteries, it is the Sydney Opera House that sticks in most people's minds. You don't even have to be Australian to regard it as one of the century's great buildings — though it probably helps.

The question is: how much greater could it have been if its young Danish architect, Jörn Utzon, had been allowed to design its interiors as well as its majestic exterior? In the event, he was forced out in 1966, ostensibly because of rising costs, and three Australian architects did an all-too-routine completion of the four theatres inside Utzon's shell.

Now, in a rare act of atonement, Australians are flocking to an exhibition which spectacularly answers this crucial question. Using computer wizardry, *The Unseen Utzon* presents a film of the interior as Utzon envisaged it. And startlingly beautiful it is, too.

The exhibition also proves that the excuse at the time — "Utzon's interiors are unbuildable" — was untrue. It was politics, not faulty design, that brought Utzon down. The parallel with St Paul's Cathedral — an undeniably fine building, but nothing like as breathtaking as Wren first envisaged it — is striking.

Poor Utzon. His second most famous building, the Kuwait Parliament, was blown up during the Gulf War. Now a frail 76, he has never returned to Sydney to see his fabulous Opera House complete — and has vowed that he never will.

Don't watch this space

THEATRE: *The Blue Ball* at the Cottesloe fails to achieve lift-off with **Benedict Nightingale**

DONALD COOPER



Dexter Fletcher as Alex and Pooky Quesnel as Anna, in Paul Godfrey's new play about astronauts. *The Blue Ball*

We all know that American astronauts can zoom through space, and even touch down on the Moon, yet send back dispatches that make a trip on the Piccadilly Line through the drab old suburbs to grey old Heathrow seem colourful and adventurous by comparison. Unfortunately, Paul Godfrey is not merely preoccupied with that paradox. His new play manages, surely inadvertently, to parallel it.

Off he went to Houston to watch a launching and, as he says in the introduction to the text, discover how "an experience so fundamentally wondrous as our first forays into space could have been rendered mundane in such a short time". Since he appears in the finished piece as a certain Paul Godfrey, who is researching a play for the National Theatre, it is reasonable to assume that he conducted interviews with astronauts and astronauts' relatives not unlike those reproduced in *The Blue Ball* itself.

And what does he end up telling us? Not a lot more than that it is awfully hard to write an exciting play about people as uninteresting and inarticulate as astronauts.

He could have reached the same conclusion in an office at the National; but maybe not quite so authoritatively. He could have stayed at home and phoned some spacefolk long-distance; but then he might have missed the few moments his play comes to something approximating dramatic life. These occur after William Armstrong's astronaut admits that space-travel is much more perilous than anybody likes to admit, and his wife — in Gabrielle Lloyd's performance an affectionate, supportive woman — goes mildly ape, shouting "how can I live with my imagination when I discover the facts are worse?".

Yet whether even this happened is unclear. Indeed, whether anything reported in the play was actually said is uncertain, for Peter Darling, who plays Godfrey in awesomely earnest mode, assures his subjects that "I won't quote or portray you". The play comes across as a documentary with imaginary episodes cut into the factual reportage, but it may be fiction from first to last. And what is the purpose of this sub-Pirandellian muddle? Search me.

For what it's worth, the obviously fictional scenes involve Dexter Fletcher as a stolid, robotic spaceperson called Alex, Pooky Quesnel as his ambitious but nervous wife, and a dauntingly crewcut Nigel Terry as his grim, driven controller. It seems that he was chosen for a pioneering mission because he combined technological efficiency with personal mediocrity. It also emerges that, now he has spent his hour rocketing about the void, his future will be as blank as his past was. In other words, we learn as much of moment about him as about the "real" astrowoman who tells Godfrey that space-travel is "more incredible than you can imagine", then proudly admits she has no imagination at all.

That makes for a momentarily amusing contradiction, but also helps explain why the play is so flat. Even the admirable Trevor Peacock, who appears late in the day as one of the profession's oldsters, fails to sharpen up the dramatic geography. He is, he says, "a goal-oriented person who fulfilled my aspirations in one shot", and is left to do little but daydream on a low income. Godfrey himself directs, on a set furnished with bar stools, over which planetary orbs hover. But why?

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

JOSEPH FIENNES



Profession: Actor

Age: 24

Where have we heard that name before? Fiennes was in the West End a year ago with Helen Mirren in *A Month in the Country*. His Belyaev was judged to have "just the right gangly charm".

Is that it? Before that, he was lifted out of drama school to play the arrogant Actor in the two-hander hit, *The Woman in Black*.

Isn't there something else? He is about to score his West End hat trick in *A View from the Bridge*, transferring to the Strand Theatre. Fiennes is the gently lovable Rodolpho who inspires dangerous jealousy.

But that surname? Oh, all right. Joseph is Ralph Fiennes's brother.

Did Ralph, seven years older, inspire him to act? "Not as such." He has been acting since primary school. Moreover, far from romanticising an actor's life, he "knew the reality. And I probably didn't want to embarrass Ralph," he adds with light frankness. He went through art school before taking the theatrical plunge. "Really my mother inspired us all. We had a large library — lots of books and paintings," he says, recalling growing up as the youngest child of his photographer father and the novelist-artist mother, Jini.

Just how many Fienneses are there? He has six siblings including his twin: Jake, a gamekeeper. The rest are in the arts. Magnus has a recording studio. Martha is involved in film direction. Sophie works in production (with Peter Greenaway among others). Roll over the Redgraves. The future is Fiennes Family Films.

Would he like to act with Ralph? "Well," he says with genuinely startled modesty, "It hadn't crossed my mind."

What parts would he like to play? "Thousands. With as many dimensions as possible," he says with lively seriousness. "One ideal is to juggle the different media. But employment is a wonderful goal, to pay the rent."

On himself: "I know more about the characters I play. That's awful, isn't it? I seem to be able to invest more time in dissecting others' thoughts and motivations than in looking at my own. But maybe, in doing that, I can reveal parts of myself."

Sorry to go on about it, but what is it like being "Ralph Fiennes's brother"? "It's like being all my brothers' and sisters' brother. He's brilliant."

KATE BASSETT

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"They have taken my life into little pieces and reworked it with lies and distortions. They have used my movies, added in the violence and death that have visited me, spiced it up with relationships with women, and come up with garbage..."

Roman Polanski — with photographs by Helmut Newton — in The Magazine, The Sunday Times tomorrow

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CONCERT: Bainbridge premiere

Fruitful passion

BBC SO/ Bainbridge
Festival Hall

SIMON BAINBRIDGE'S latest work, *Ad Ora Incerta*, a BBC commission given its world premiere by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under the composer on Wednesday night, is a powerfully conceived, passionately expressed meditation on the inhumanity of man. It transfixed a modest-sized Festival Hall audience.

The work consists of a setting for mezzo-soprano of four poems by Primo Levi, written in the years immediately after his Auschwitz experience. The first, *The Crow's Song*, imagines bad news delivered by that doom-laden bird. The orchestral texture, for the most part, is elaborate, with whirring strings and hyperactive woodwind evoking both the avian prophet's 100-mile journey and the anxiety in which it results. Four percussionists are kept busy on an array of instruments and the voice is frequently submerged. There are some ravishing sonorities, though, not least in a climactic passage involving substantial brass.

In the second and third poems, the solo bassoon (eloquently played by Kim Walker) is heard in its highest register, often above the vocalist, and in the fourth movement, too, the mezzo spends an inordinate amount of time growling inaudibly below strings and woodwind. This was no fault of Christine Cairns, who gave a lovely performance when her voice was liberated in a more comfortable tessitura.

Ad Ora Incerta is a wonderfully effective, moving work, and the composer drew some long-breathed, sympathetic playing from the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

The remaining two items, Rimsky-Korsakov's *May Night Overture* and Tchaikovsky's *Manfred Symphony*, were conducted by Alexander Lazarev. Both performances showed a feeling for orchestral colour, but *Manfred* requires rather more. Its Byronic inspiration demands fiery rhetoric and turbulent emotions. The players did well to get round the notes of this difficult score, with only minor mishaps, but one was hardly swept away on a wave of passion — until the finale, when at last the spirits soared with a truly celestial vision.

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WEST END ENTERTAINMENT

■ **AFTER EASTER** Anne Devlin's powerful drama concerning the strains of surviving as an Ulster Catholic woman. Stella Gonet most moving as a returning exile: Michael Attenborough directs
Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Now previewing, 7.15pm opens Mon, 7pm

◪ **AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'** Exhilaratin' song 'n' dance show created from the hits of Fats Waller. Non-stop energy on feet
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

◪ **BROKEN GLASS** Arthur Miller's masterly drama, distilling his lifelong concern with personal responsibility. David Thacker's production with Henry Goodman and Margot Leicester
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

□ **DESIGN FOR LIVING** Rachel Weisz, Rupert Graves and Marcus D'Amico in Coward's *menage à trois* comedy. Sean Mathias's award-winner, with even more sexual rough and tumble than at the Donmar
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm

◪ **FEVER PITCH** The one-man show adapted from Nick Hornby's best-selling account of a lifelong obsession with Arsenal FC. Stephen Norris takes us through 45 minutes each way
Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 2132). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 6.15 and 8.30pm.

◪ **IF WE ARE WOMEN** Richard Olivier directs Joan Plowright and Diana Quick in a play by Canadian Joanna McClelland Glass: three generations of women come together after a death and deal with their past
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Now previewing, 7.45pm opens April 6

□ **IN PRAISE OF LOVE** Peter Bowles and Lisa Harrow in Rattigan drama about *bravely facing death. Interesting* and finally touching as it shows the effects, ill and good, of emotional restraint
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

◪ **INDIAN INK** Felicity Kendal, Art Malik and Margaret Tyzack in Tom Stoppard's latest, witty, poignantly, exploring aspects of Anglo-Indian resentments and respect.

■ **THE STEWARD OF CHRISTENDOM** Donald McCann plays an ex-supt of the Dublin Police looking back on his life and keeping his ghosts at bay. Sebastian Barry's play directed by Max Stafford-Clark for Out of Joint
Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 2554). Now previewing, 7.45pm opens April 4 and 5, 7pm.

□ **SWEET PHOEBE** Direct from its Australian tour, Sydney Theatre Company bring Michael Gow's now play in which a couple of DINKS (double income, no kids) find their sixth Wedding Anniversary utterly disrupted by the arrival of a house guest.
Warehouse, Dingwall Road, East Croydon (0181-680 4060). Tue, 6.30pm, Wed-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 5pm. Until Apr 23

□ **UP'N'UNDER** John Godber's rugby play, done by Hull Truck. Enthusiastic n 'simple. Leave your brains in the changing room
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue WC2 (0171-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

◪ **THE WINTER GUEST** Phyllida Law and Sian Thomas head Alan Rickman's sensitively directed cast in Sharman Macdonald's fine play about loss, survival, the perils and joys of life
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm

LONG RUNNERS

□ **Arcadia** Haymarket (0171-930 8800) ◪ **Blood Brothers** Phoenix (0171-867 1044) ◪ **Buddy** Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) ■ **Cats** New London (0171-405 0072) ■ **Copacabana** Prince of Wales (0171-839 5972) ■ **Crazy for You** Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) ◪ **Don't Dress for Dinner** Duchess (0171-494 5070) ■ **Grease** Dominion (0171-416 6060) ■ **Les Misérables** Palace (0171-434 0909) ■ **Miss Saigon** Theatre Royal (0171-494 5400) □ **The Mousetrap** St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . . ◪ **My Night With Reg** Criterion (0171-839 4488) ■ **Oliver!** Palladium (0171-494 5020) ◪ **A Passionate Woman** Comedy (0171-369 1731) □ **She Loves Me** Savoy (0171-836 8888) ■ **Starlight Express** Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) ■ **Sunset Boulevard** Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ■ **Three Tall Women** Wyndhams (0171-369 1736) ◪ **The Woman in Black** Fortune (0171-836 2238)

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

□ **KILLER JOE** Utterly absorbing shock-drama by Tracy Letts where a trash-trailer family virtually annihilates itself by employing a hit-man to kill their unwanted Mom. Wilson Milam directs the original Chicago production.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

□ **THE LIVE BED SHOW** Arthur Smith's revised version of his 1989 Edinburgh Festival comedy: Caroline Quentin and Paul Merton play a couple on their journey towards sharing a bed
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri and Sat, 6.30pm and 8.45pm

■ **THE MEMORANDUM** Revival of President Havel's 1965 surreal comedy about office intrigue and a weird new language supposedly designed to improve efficiency
Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (0181-940 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Apr 6 and 13, 2.30pm; Sat, 4pm. Until Apr 29

◪ **THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR** Terry Hands's first production here after his long time in charge of the RSC. Denis Quilley plays the fat knight and Richard McCabe an insanely jealous husband.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Today, 2pm and 7.15pm.

□ **THE MOSQUITO COAST** *Outstanding production by the David Glass Ensemble, dramatising Paul Theroux's novel of the crazed American who drags his family into the jungle.* Shrinking visual effects
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; until Apr 22.

◪ **ONE FINE DAY** Joe McGann as an estranged husband longing to be a proper dad to his kids. Dennis Lomberg's one-man play, here for six weeks.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Previews today 5pm and 8pm, opens Mon, 7pm

NEW RELEASES

CROOKLYN (12) Spike Lee's rowdy, rose-tinted memories of a Brooklyn childhood. With Alfre Woodard, Delroy Lindo and Zelda Harris
Electric ◪ (071-792 2020) **MGM Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031)

FIORILE (12) *See Critics' Choice page 2*

HOOP DREAMS (15) Marvellous documentary by Steve James. Fred Marx and Peter Gilbert about two inner city lads and their dreams of playing professional basketball
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGM Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6279)

◆ **JUST CAUSE** (18) Harvard law professor Sean Connery wrestles with a murder case in Florida. Ludicrous investigative thriller with Laurence Fishburne. Director: Arne Glimcher.
MGM Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

AMATEUR (15) *Amnesiac pornographer faces his past with a former nun's help. Quirky, touching, pseudo-thriller from Hal Hartley, with Martin Donovan and Isabelle Huppert*
MGM Panton Street (0171-930 0631) **Odeon Kensington** *today only* (01426 *914666*)

◆ **ANDRE** Adventures of an orphaned seal. Well-packaged family film with Keith Carradine, Tina Majorino and a scene-stealing sea lion
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **DISCLOSURE** (18) Michael Douglas says no to Demi Moore. Superficially enjoyable version of Michael Crichton's sexual harassment novel. Director, Barry Levinson
MGMtc: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **DROP ZONE** (15) Wesley Snipes goes undercover to catch sky-diving criminals. *Good aerial stunts, otherwise* an empty action thriller. With Yancy Butler and Gary Busey. Director: John Badham
MGM Trocadero ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0800 888997) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **FORREST GUMP** (12) Endearing d intelligent odyssey through post-war America, ideal for baby boomers. With Tom Hanks. Director: Robert Zemeckis
Empire (0800 888 411) **MGM Baker Street** (0171-935 3772)

NOBODY'S FOOL (15) Endearing slice of small-town Americana, with Paul Newman, Melanie Griffith, Bruce Willis and Jessica Tandy
Odeon West End (01426 915 574)

◆ **PRET-A-PORTER** (15) *Surprisingly* feeble satire on the fashion world from Robert Altman. With Kim Basinger, *Sophia Loren, Marcello Mastroianni*, Stephen Rea and many others
MGMtc: Fulham Rd (0171-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Rd** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Mezzanine** ◪ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

PRIEST (15) Torment of a gay Catholic priest. Overwrought drama that still packs a punch. Antonia Bird directs. Linus Roache, Tom Wilkinson
Barbican ◪ (0171-638 8891) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **MGM Fulham Road** ◪ (0171-370 2636) **Notting Hill Coronet** ◪ (0171-727 6705) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0050) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **QUIZ SHOW** (15) Director Robert Redford resurrects a TV scandal of the late 1950s. Fine performances (John Turturro, Ralph Fiennes, Paul Scofield), but not enough bite or relevance
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

LA REINE MARGOT (18) Bloody, *brooding, occasionally impressive* French history lesson, with Isabelle Adjani and Daniel Auteuil.
MGM Panton Street (0171-930 0631)

◆ **THE RIVER WILD** (12) Criminals imperil a family on their white water rafting holiday. Enjoyable action thriller, with Meryl Streep and Kevin Bacon
Plaza (0800 888997)

SHALLOW GRAVE (18) Wickedly enjoyable comedy-thriller about three Edinburgh chums and a corpse loaded with money. Danny Boyle directs.
MGM Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Odeon Mezzanine** ◪ (01426 915683)

◆ **THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION** How to survive long decades in prison. Engrossing drama with Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman. Director, Frank Darabont
MGMtc: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ◪ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** (0800 888997) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

STAR TREK: GENERATIONS (PG) Tatty but acceptable film debut for the stars of television's *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. David Carson directs
MGM Trocadero ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** ◪ (0800 888997)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

◆ **IMMORTAL BELOVED** (15) Gary Oldman is Beethoven, but the film still ends up worthy and dull. With Jeroen Krabbe and Isabella Rossellini. writer-director, Bernard Rose
Empire ◪ (0800 888911) **MGM Fulham Road** ◪ (0171-370 2636) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

I.Q. (U) Albert Einstein steers his niece towards romance with an ordinary Joe. *Overly cute comedy with Meg Ryan*, Tim Robbins and Walter Matthau. Director, Fred Schepisi
Empire (0800 888911) **MGM Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **THE LION KING** (U) African lion cub almost loses his father's throne. Much hyped but charmless Disney cartoon, not meant for tiny tots
Odeon Kensington (01426 914666) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **LITTLE WOMEN** (U) Fresh, tender, feminist version of the 19th-century classic, with Winona Ryder, Susan Sarandon, and Gabriel Byrne. Director, Gillian Armstrong
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426-915 683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE (PG) *See Critics' Choice, page 2*

MRS. PARKER AND THE VICIOUS CIRCLE (15) Alan Rudolph's melancholy and witty portrait of Dorothy Parker and her era. Compelling performances from Jennifer Jason Leigh and a well-chosen cast
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Curzons: Mayfair** (0171-569 1720) **Phoenix** (0171-369 1721), **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

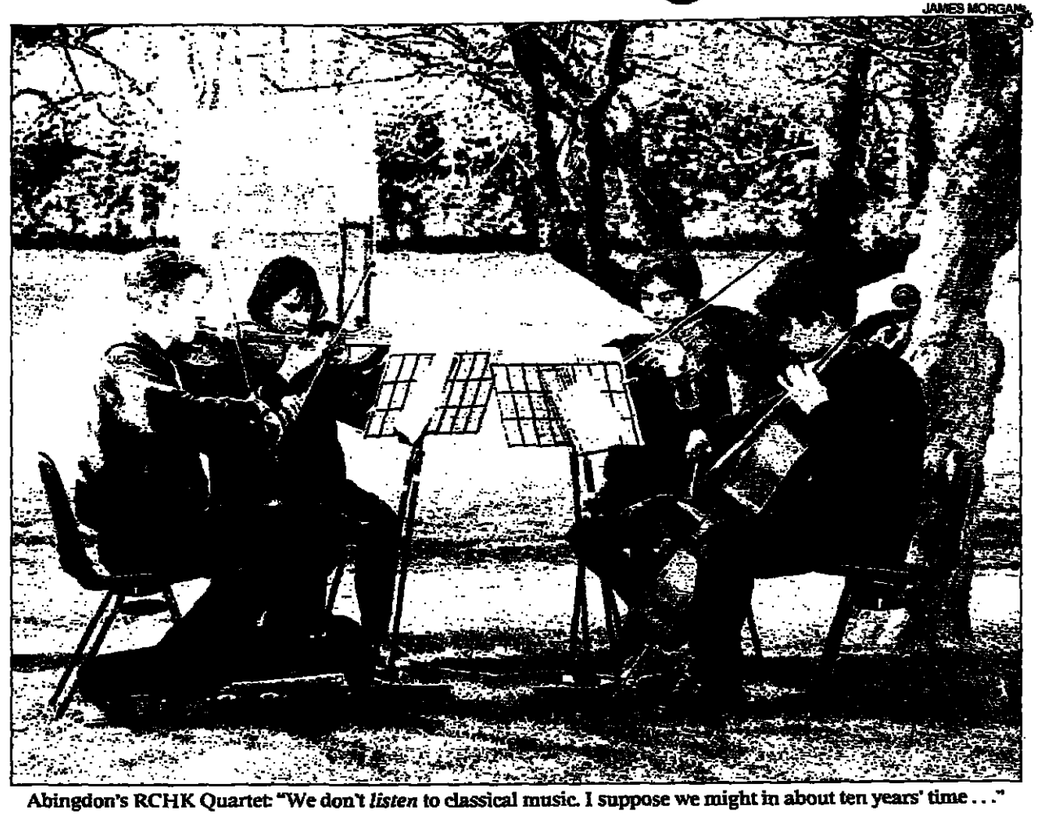
◆ **NATURAL BORN KILLERS** (18) Warped lovers embark on a shooting rampage with the media in pursuit. Wearisome excess from director Oliver Stone with Woody Harrelson and Juliette Lewis
Odeon Kensington (01426 914666) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **NELL** (12) Doctor Liam Neeson nurtures backwoods wild child Jodie Foster. Well acted, well meant but glutinous. Director, Michael Apted
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

An incredible string band

From hip-hop to Haydn: **Hilary Finch** on the eclecticism of a quartet too new to have a name

JAMES MORGAN



Abingdon's RCHK Quartet: "We don't *listen* to classical music. I suppose we might in about ten years' time . . ."

Oxford meets Cambridge today — and not just on the river. An Oxfordshire string quartet, each member just 15 years old, travels to Fitzwilliam College to meet 15 other groups for the Cambridge Symposium for *Young String Quartets*. The weekend of master-classes, discussions and rehearsals is being coached by such veterans as Yfrah Neaman, Martin Lovett, Levon Chilingirian and Philip De Groote.

Some players — those from college junior departments and specialist music schools — will be oldish hands at it all: others, such as the quartet of Radley College with St Helen and St Katharine, are so young that they have not even got a name. The RCHK Quartet, for want of a better tag, were formed in the New Year: two boys and two girls from their respective schools, five miles apart in Abingdon, which have a ten-year history of choral and orchestral collaboration.

Their coaching session is, by all accounts, the high point of the week. They all seem to love the quartet. In their time off, the players stomp around Oxford in multicoloured Doc Martens, searching out the latest discs from Blur, Massive Attack, Portishead, Nirvana. Would they ever go to a string quartet recital? "No — not likely," says Tamasin Greenough, second violin. "*We don't listen to classical* music. I suppose we might in *about ten years' time* . . ." The best of the grunge bands, after all, "have a tune, play well, and their songs are well structured and varied".

Unlike poor Malcolm Arnold. It was decreed that the RCHK Quartet should tackle the last two movements of his First String Quartet as a complement to the Haydn Op 20 No 3 which they have also prepared for the symposium. Nobody seems to like it much yet. "It sounds so weird. *You can't tell where it's going.* At least with Haydn we can see what he's trying to get at."

A rehearsal, coached by one of the schools' heads of music or head of strings, is pretty impressive, though. Andrew Tillett, director of music at St Helen's, is on Arnold's side. "It's fairly unforgiving stuff, but he does actually know what he's doing. Project *all* the expression marks. *Agonise* over the accents. Hit the *pizzicato so that there's a real* bass to the chord." Tom Fairclough (leader), Tamasin Greenough (second violin), Ruth Edwards (viola) and Will Mackie (cello) are a fairly civilised lot and, in addition to the unfamiliarity of the music, there is a natural disinclination, particularly on the part of the girls, to be quite combative enough.

"The audience won't know *this piece either, and you've* got to sell it to them in one go. *You've got nothing to apologise for,*" says Tillett. More eye contact might help: they do not know each other quite well enough yet to anticipate the quality or speed of response. "Make your eyes dart to wherever that accent is coming from. Tom — lead with your eyebrow, if you like: I once had a violinist friend who 'conducted' with his left ear."

The girls collapse in giggles. But Tamasin, for all her diffidence, seems to anticipate *pretty well. She was Suzuki*-trained and feels that the art of listening and the playing by ear involved in her studies has been an enormous help in chamber-music making. But there is still the fear of the unknown — those dark, dank Shostakovich-like passages of the slow movement. "There's no tune — so you have to create something else. The *movement's character is chro*matic, isn't it? So really bring the chromatic notes up above the parapet," says Tillett.

Time is nearly up. The sun looks very bright outside. "*Make* it finish! It just drifts to the buffers at the moment. And no! No! Never play the notes that are left over. Never."

WHEN THE BAND STARTS TO PLAY

- Cambridge Symposium for Young String Quartets: Fitzwilliam College until April 3 (permanent office: 01329 283603).
- *Gala Concert at the Corn Exchange, Cambridge:* Monday, April 3, 7.30pm. Tickets: £6, from 01223 357851.
- The RCHK Quartet is beginning to play its first gigs. For further information, contact Robert Gower, Radley College, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 2HR (01235 543034), or Andrew Tillett, the School of St Helen and St *Katharine, Faringdon Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire* OX14 1BE (01235 520173).

NEW ON VIDEO: Generation X on holiday; stone-faced in the Stone Age; music-hall memories

■ **DAZED AND CONFUSED**
CIC, 18, 1993
HIGH-SCHOOL kids celebrate the end of term by drinking, fighting and philosophising. Richard Linklater followed *Slacker*, a droll portrait of Generation X, with this trip back to his own adolescence in 1976. Mildly disappointing, though Linklater has an enviable way with ensemble casts, and he finds a wonderfully woebegone new face in Wiley Wiggins, the boy who gets a crash course in the pleasures of *being grown-up.*

■ **THE FLINTSTONES**
CIC, U, 1994
JOIN the queue at the rental store for last summer's live-action romp featuring television's favourite Stone Age family, plus their pets and gadgets. This particular adult found it noisy, charmless and indigestible, bogged down with an embezzlement plot inappropriate for youngsters, too many lame jokes, an overworked menagerie from the Jim Henson Creature Shop and a bellicose John Goodman. But a film like this is critic-proof.

■ **LOVE ON THE DOLE**
Fabulous Films, U, 1941
LAY-OFFS, breadline living, police clashes: in many ways this is a story for our times. It took the war to make Walter Greenwood's Depression novel palatable for the movie censors, and *humble film-maker John Baxter rises* to the challenge, portraying the plight *of one struggling Lancashire family.* Deborah Kerr, fresh to films, is the forthright heroine and Clifford Evans her agitator fiancé. More than 50 years on, the film still writhes with anger and compassion.

■ **I VITELLONI**
Fabulous Films, U, 1953
THE *vitelloni* in Fellini's early clasic are the provincial loafers who hang around street corners and bars, thinking about women and dreaming of big-city glory (though most of their talk is just hot air). Episodic, sympathetic, crammed with the kind of realistic detail later replaced in the master's works by caricature and fantasy.

■ **UMBERTO D.**
Fabulous Films, U, 1952
VITTORIO DE SICA put on his gloomiest face to direct this study of an *old man, bereft of money and friends* except a servant girl and a fox terrier, *whose life dwindles away until death* seems the only solution. Carlo Battista, a university professor in real life, invests the hero with tenderness and dignity, and the camera dwells lyrically on domestic minutiae, but the film's determinedly downcast air suggests why it was never a popular success.

■ **A TV DANTE**
Academy, 15, 1989
FEW television ventures have produced images as densely and intricately woven as those Peter Greenaway and Tom Phillips created for their version of *Dante's The Inferno.* Bob Peck appears as Dante and John Gielgud as his guide through hell, the poet Virgil; though their faces and words form only a fraction of the video kaleidoscope on offer. An absorbing, extraordinary experience.

■ **MUSIC HALL DAYS**
Reader's Digest, E
ONE of a new series covering aspects of national life through the archives of *the British Pathé newsreel. Do not* expect any music hall giants: the Golden Age was over by the time movies talked. But the clips of Max Wall, Cyril Fletcher, Jack Warner, Tommy Handley and various comics entertaining the troops provide a pleasant saunter through the past. Roy Hudd hosts the video in a red jacket and yellow carnation, but is otherwise inoffensive. Other videos focus on Churchill, dance fashions, the social whirl, and pageantry through the decades.

GEOFF BROWN

Garden weekend

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

THE BOC Covent Garden Festival, which runs from May 8-21, is a many-splendoured thing, and the Theatre Club has packaged a few of the highlights of the last weekend of the Festival (May 18-21). After dinner in your hotel on Friday night, the first item *on the cultural menu is* Music Theatre London's *production of Mozart's most popular opera, The Magic Flute.* Then, after a Saturday spent roaming the capital or enjoying the free events staged at the Festival, spend the evening at Rodgers and Hammerstein's ever-popular musical *The King and I*, staged in the magnificent Freemason's Hall. Irek Mukhamedov, one of the stars of the Royal Ballet, the Broadway leading lady Liz Robertson, and rising West End star Shezwae Powell head a cast of more than 100 actors, singers and dancers. On Sunday afternoon, round off the weekend at a tea-dance in the elegant Theatre Museum.

Accommodation for the weekend will be at the Kenilworth or Marlborough Hotels in central London, and includes the pre-show dinner on Friday evening and full English breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. The cost is £149 per person based on two people sharing a room. To book, telephone 0800 335588

HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. In some cases there may be a transaction charge to cover postage
TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO1 1GN, or telephone 01206 791737 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERS

LONDON
Cockpit Theatre
April 4-6
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £8.50) for *The Yiddish Trojan Woman*, a delightful, bittersweet comedy. Tel 0171-402 5081

Etcetera Theatre
April 19
● TOM MCCRORY's *French Kiss* uses mime and physical theatre to tell the comic story of a lonely typist who signs up for evening classes in oral French. On the first night, *French Kiss* will begin with a Kissathon. Couples prepared to kiss their way in will see the play for nothing (tickets normally £7). Tel 0171-482 4857

EDINBURGH
Festival Theatre
April 18-20 (8pm):
April 21-22 (6pm)
● JAKE and Elwood Blues live again in *The Official Tribute to the Blues Brothers*. Two tickets for the price of one in the stalls and dress circle (normally £14.50). Tel 0131-529 6000

LEEDS
West Yorkshire Playhouse
April 7-21
● EMILY WOOF is the heroine in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Tickets £7 to £10.50 (normally £9.50 to £13). Tel 0113-244 2111

BOLTON
Octagon
Until April 15
● *Kiss of the Spiderwoman* stars Grant Thatcher and Stephen Brook. Tickets £5 (normally £7). Tel 01304 520661

WOLVERHAMPTON
Grand Theatre
April 3-8
● SAVE £3 on tickets (normally £6.50 to £14.50) to see John Godber's *On the Piste*. Tel 01902 29212

NORTHAMPTON
Royal Theatre
April 7-29
● SAVE 20 per cent on tickets (normally £8, £10, £11) for Alan Ayckbourn's *Time & Time Again*. Tel 01604 32535

BASINGSTOKE
The Anvil
April 5
● THE Stuttgart Philharmonic plays music by Dvorak, Ravel and Sibelius. Save £4 on tickets (normally £12, £16.50, £21). Tel 01256 844244

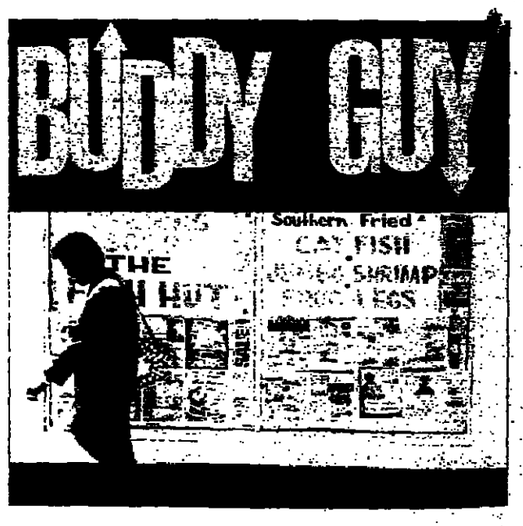
BATH
Theatre Royal
April 10-13
● CHEKHOV'S *The Seagull* stars Deborah Findlay, Aden Gillet, Michael Sheen and Kate Beckinsale. Two tickets for the price of one in the balcony (normally £7, £8, £11). Tele 01225 448844

WH Smith CD of the week

The latest release by Buddy Guy, probably the king among today's Chicago bluesmen, is this week's *Times*/WH Smith recommended recording.

Guy's passionate singing and guitar playing have made him a legend, admired by his peers and invited to perform with musicians including Mark Knopfler and Bill Wyman. *Slippin' In* finds him on top form, with a 20-strong choir and a powerful band.

Take the coupon below to a WH Smith music counter and you can obtain it at a £3 saving on the normal price of £12. 99. The offer is valid until April 22, 1995.



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Store / No. / Number No.

RECORDINGS: A celebration of sleaze at the opera; best value for Beethoven; the Duke, Mingus and Roach in the money; earthy Reef

OPERA

John Higgins

■ **CLASSIC SLEAZE**
Various artists
Teldec 4509 99468-2★★

THE reasons behind the vogue for the compilation disc are plain. The "new" public for classical music is believed to have only a short attention span, so what better than 20 or so tracks averaging less than four minutes. And there is no need to open up a recording studio: just step down to the archives.

Teldec at least has come up with a good idea with *Sleaze*. The beginning is shaky. The overture to *Don Giovanni* speaks louder of punishment than depravity and, in the Catalogue Aria, László Polgar is not the best Leporello around. Lucia di Lammermoor is another doubtful candidate — all she did was kill an unwanted husband — but Gruberová shines brightly.

It is not until half-way, when Berlin and the 1930s are reached, that the real article emerges. There is early Lenya, singing in a high Lolita-like voice with Weill's *Wie man sich bettet*. Equally impressive is early Dietrich turning her attention to two different gentlemen, *Peter* and *Jonny*. And to prove that Delilahs do not have a monopoly of sleaze, Curt Bois advises not looking at the violinist playing the tango *all* the time.

But where is the sleaziest operatic family of all, Salome & Co? Unaccountably missing. And there may be some puzzlement about the first item, the opening of Britten's *Young Person's Guide*. Corruption or an April Fool's joke? Neither: it was apparently the theme tune of the last Tory party conference.



Marlene Dietrich on tour in America in 1952 — she still had a suitcase in Berlin

CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

■ **BEETHOVEN**
Diabelli Variations
William Kinderman
Hyperion CDA66763★★★

WILLIAM KINDERMAN is the scholar-performer to whom Alfred Brendel entrusts the programme notes for his own South Bank Beethoven cycle, and he is the author of an important recent Beethoven monograph. His accompanying notes to this disc offer a sure and lucid guide through the extraordinary transformations of his own performance of the *Diabelli Variations*.

This is not the playing one might expect from a scholar. It



Beethoven: wonder-filled

takes an expansive delight in the music's wonder-filled journey from "ironic caricature to sublime transformation". Kinderman's imaginative responses roam free, toughened at their core by the many insights his research has yielded.

Diabelli's waltz theme is in turn teased and revered, hallucinated and subjected to hard, white light. Its steady rhythmic intensification is re-created with more than a passing breath of Brendel himself, though the calculation of the tenth variation's storm in a teacup and the unfathomable inwardness of No 20 are entirely Kinderman's own.

In this performance, search and surprise become raised to an almost metaphysical level, as the variations become progressively dissociated and finally disincarnate from the theme. Not to be missed.

□ **SCHUBERT**
Piano Sonatas D850 & D537
Robert Levin
Sony SK 53364★★★

ANOTHER exciting American performer-scholar adds his insights to the catalogue this month. Robert Levin has worked more in the field of performing editions, restoring the art of improvisation to Classical embellishment and cadenza, and making several notable reconstructions of Mozart.

His own performances show the mastery of the Classical language at such a deep level that the natural surprises the music springs seem fresh-minted, almost improvisatory themselves. The wide, often surprising palette of the fortepiano (here an 1825 Viennese Fritz) revitalises the rich colours of Schubert's bold harmonic language.

There is so much to relish here. I particularly enjoyed the cumulative energy built by Levin through the harmonic sequences of the D major Sonata's first movement. They reinforced the strength of its structure before the rhythmic dislocations of the slow movement and one of the most irresistibly seductive Scherzos and Trios in the business.

[illegible]

Stephen Pettitt

■ ***SCHOENBERG***
Gurrelieder
Soloists/Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra/Abbado
Deutsche Grammophon 439 944-2 (2 CDs)★★★

CLAUDIO ABBADO'S account of Schoenberg's vast song of love, persecution, death, vengeance and transfiguration — a work whose long gestation means that it looks simultaneously backwards to *Pelleas und Melisande* (Schoenberg's, not Debussy's) and forwards to *Moses und Aaron* — is a giant, richly indulgent and compellingly cogent one. At once one is struck by the richness of sound produced by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra in its own home, the Vienna Musikverein, and brilliantly captured by the sound engineers. Abbado has also brought to the orchestra a passion worlds removed from the cosy complacency of which it has sometimes been accused.

The soloists are all marvellous, first among them Siegfried Jerusalem, a Waldemar of epic proportions, strong and searing in his upper register, glowingly rich in the lower. Sharon Sweet makes for a radiant Tove, while Marjana Lipovsek strikes the right note of tragedy as the Wood Dove at the end of Part One.

Philip Langridge's naturally strident sound fits well the part of Klaus the Jester; Hartmut Welker's peasant is suitably terror-stricken by the reappearance of the dead warriors. But perhaps the biggest surprise is the presence of Barbara Sukowa as the Speaker in the finale, *The Wild Hunt of the Summer Wind*. Sukowa's stylised delivery lends an appositely surreal air to this transcendent passage and crowns a distinguished reading marked also by the sterling singing of the Vienna State Opera Chorus, the Arnold Schoenberg Choir and the Slovakian Philharmonic Choir of Bratislava.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ **BEETHOVEN**
Eroica Symphony; Fidelio Overture
Royal Philharmonic Orchestra/Herbig
Tring TRP026★★

THIS new version of Beethoven's *Eroica Symphony*, on the super-budget Tring label, arrived within days of EMI's prestigious full-price release from Wolfgang Sawallisch and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra (reviewed last week). Together they provide proof that these days money no longer guarantees quality.

Guenter Herbig's reading is by no means one of sensational revelations, but it is a powerfully conceived and a very satisfying one. His more standard tempo for the first movement yields a better sense of momentum, where Sawallisch's extra weight tends towards the ponderous. The most remarkable feature of Herbig's performance is the thrilling surge of the horns at the climax of the Funeral March's contrapuntal section. There are further brass sallies in the finale, towards the end of the variations and again, on the horns, in the final bars. Here the effect is too vulgar, but otherwise Herbig's is a far from routine interpretation that occasionally blazes to life, yet without drawing undue attention to itself.

The disc is very acceptably engineered, and the notes are, on the whole, nearly executed by the RPO (the disc being part of the Royal Philharmonic Collection). If there are one or two tiny errors, they are a small price to pay for a recommendable budget-price version of the work.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ **DUKE ELLINGTON**
Money Jungle
Blue Note CDP7463982★★★

THE master's name takes top billing, yet his meeting with Charles Mingus and Max Roach proved to be one of those occasions when participants operate on an equal footing, finding common ground without unduly compromising their utterly contrasting voices. The improvisations crackle and sparkle, touching depths that Ellington's earlier trio showcase *Piano Reflections* — a fine performance on its own terms — never begins to approach.

Originally made for United Artists, *Money Jungle* is one of 25 mid-price reissues chosen to mark the tenth anniversary of the relaunch of Blue Note's ample catalogue. The album dates from a fascinating but often neglected phase of Ellington's career, a period which yielded rewarding collaborations with Louis Armstrong, Coleman Hawkins and John Coltrane.

Like Coltrane, Mingus might have seemed an incongruous partner, but the intensity of his bass playing, rich in drones and dissonant effects, clearly prompted Ellington into responding in kind. Roach is inventive but not hectoring: he nudges the other



Ellington: sparkling

men forward without resorting to the lash. He and Mingus are at their most subtle on *Fleurette Africaine*, an exquisite Ellington miniature rarely heard today.

As for the sprinkling of swaggering blues-based tunes, the title of one of the numbers — *Switch Blade* — captures the mood perfectly.

POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

■ **JULIANA HATFIELD**
Only Everything
Mammoth/east west 4509-00580★★

THE Boston babe-led bands are enjoying a vintage year. With new albums from Belly and Throwing Muses already in the shops, it is now the turn of Juliana Hatfield — formerly of the Blake Babies, Lemonheads and her own Juliana Hatfield Three.

Only Everything is by some distance Hatfield's most confident and downright noisy offering yet. Much heavier than her last album, *Become What You Are*, it combines a swelling, grunge-guitar aesthetic with a sensitive singing style and the sort of pseudo-psychological lyrics favoured by Kristin Hersh.

Despite the echoes of Sonic Youth, Nirvana and the Pixies heard all over *Only Everything*, Hatfield successfully stamps her own distinctive mark on material ranging from the opening full-tilt rocker, *What A Life*, to the slow, stately finale of *You Blues*. *And if this all sounds as if she is having her cake and eating it, then that is about the size of it. A tasty package it is, too.*

POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

■ **REEF**
Good Feeling
Sony Soho Square 661360★★

INITIALLY lumbered with being that band in the television advertisement for Sony's moribund MiniDisc format, Reef have won serious attention in the hard-rock press for months. *Good Feeling*, their major-label debut, suggests the London four-piece could enjoy success well beyond that specialist market.

Gary Stringer's soulful, blues-rock voice pitches a lyric about "working things out" and whatever it is that "feels so good to me" above a vigorously syncopated, guitar-led rhythm track. It is a traditional, earthy rock sound, but with plenty of youthful brio and a nimble touch.

★ *Worth hearing*
★★ *Worth considering*
★★★ *Worth buying*



GARDENING

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q We saw some white flowers, very like large snowdrops, in a garden recently and were told they were snowflakes. Are they easy to grow, and where would we get them? — Mrs P. Collins, Sheffield.

A The spring snowflake, *Leucojum vernum*, is available from most bulb suppliers. It is as easy to grow as a snowdrop, except that it does not flourish as well in turf. It prefers to be under shrubs, or among other broad-leafed perennials such as hostas or acanthus. It grows to about 9in, and has a larger, more bell-shaped flower than a snowdrop. The foliage is bright green and does not have that glaucous cast of snowdrops. The bulbs will increase readily, and can be split every few years. There is no problem with splitting them now, in the green, in the same way as you would snowdrop bulbs.

The summer snowflake, *Leucojum aestivum*, is larger, and follows on at the end of the daffodil season in April and May. This, too, is easy to grow, and in a heavy, moist soil will make large clumps in rough grass, in the same way as daffodils. Divide old clumps in spring or autumn. The form 'Gravetye Giant' is exceptionally strong, and is reputed to reach a height of 3ft in rich, damp soils, but 2ft is more usual. There is an autumn-flowering snowflake too, *Leucojum autumnale*, but this is far less vigorous and only suitable for an alpine bed or scree garden.

Q I have three 25ft golden Castlewellan leylandii cypresses, which I would like to reduce. If I cut them off at half their height, will they sprout and green over again? Is there any other way of reducing the height without removing the tree? — Peter White, Seaton, County Durham.

A You can cut them off at half height, and they will sprout, mostly from the top ring of side branches rather than the trunk, but you will be storing up problems for later. Cuts across the main trunk of a conifer usually cause it to die back later. The new shoots will need plenty of topping out to make them bush out and cover the hollow centre of the tree. Therefore, it is advisable to cut the main trunks 2-3ft lower than the final desired height.

It is always better with such strong-growing conifers to stop the leader long before it reaches the desired height, when a cut of only half the diameter is needed. The tree will more readily bear many such small cuts than a major wound into old wood. The result looks better too, especially from an upper window.

Remember that close-planted trees will starve each other into slower growth, so taking out a middle one to let more light in will only encourage the others to grow faster. Why not remove the trees, replant, and top them out at the correct height. You will get them back to 12ft in three to four years.

● Readers wishing to have gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

Little patch with big ideas



TONY WHITE

George Plumptre rakes a fine tilth on the small, neglected plot that will be filled with annuals, herbs and vegetables, and feature a stone jardinière

George Plumptre, The Times Gardener, sets about bringing some colourful new life into one of those unsightly 'dead' areas of the garden

Despite the frustrations caused by wet weather in recent months, life is not all bad for the weekend gardener. Three weeks ago, when the first spring day dawned on a Saturday, it was the signal to start work on a project that I have been planning for some weeks: reorganising what I have always loosely referred to as the vegetable garden. The end result will, I hope, be a mixed and decorative planting which draws the area into the rest of the garden.

The 16ft by 10ft plot lies in a corner furthest from the house. Despite its limited size, it is visible from most parts of our small garden and its often desultory appearance signalled failure. In the past, it has been used for growing some vegetables, and as a patch for experiments by the children with plants and tomatoes in growing bags.

Throughout the summer, the plot is warm and sheltered, catching the sun for much of the day. In winter, the sun is too low to get above adjacent buildings, and the site is constantly damp and cold.

Accepting that I am not going to attempt to grow vegetables throughout the year, I have decided to change the area's identity.

Along the boundary with the lawn edge is a narrow, brick path. Too often, earth from the vegetable garden spilled out over the path and there was no definition to the boundary. This problem has been solved by planting an evergreen hedge of box *(Buxus sempervirens)* parallel to the path. The plants came from my parents' garden and were replanted within 24 hours. The roots are set in a mix of compost and leaf mould, with a sprinkling of bonemeal. I will leave them to settle for a month or so, then give them a clip to keep their shape.

The box hedge announces that this is garden, rather than just a patch of earth in which to grow things occasionally. It also makes a visible feature from the far side of the lawn whereas, in the past, the view petered out against the wooden boundary fence.

This boundary also needed livening up, so I am training sweet peas up the cut stems of dogwood *(Cornus alba)*. Stuck into the ground, these red-tinted stems make a twiggy screen about 10ft high. The sweet peas should cover them with flowers for many weeks.

At first, I considered dividing the area with paths to make individual plots more accessible for planting and weeding, but the limited size threatened a fiddly-looking end result. Instead, I have chosen a large ornamental feature, a stone jardinière, positioned centrally in front of the boundary fence, with the sweet peas making the screen on both sides.

The "Elizabethan" jardinière (recommended price £133.50) is 18½in high and 26in across its top, and makes a striking impression. It was made by Haddonstone, which offers alternatives, many smaller and cheaper, of similar reconstructed or reconstituted stone. Urns or jardinières, which can be planted up to make a focal point in a scheme such as this, are stocked by many garden centres and nurseries. Prices start at about £40.

The box hedge and the jardinière on its broad base of stone flags will give form and structure to this area of the garden throughout the year.

At the moment, I have worked out the planting for this season only, and will no doubt want to make some changes after mixed success and failure. After the ground had been dug over it needed thorough treatment with a short-tined rake to break up the clods caused by months of rain and no sun. Incorporating leaf mould has helped and, now that the topsoil is drying, I have a good tilth for planting.

The sweet pea seedlings are in, protected with wood ash from slugs.

I envisage the main area as a melee of low-growing annuals, herbs and some vegetables. The latter will include attractive individual plants which you pick from, rather than remove the whole plant, such as courgettes and globe artichokes. Salads will include decorative-leafed beetroot and ornamental lettuce.

The annuals will make pools of colour among the predominant greens of the herbs and vegetables. They will include the "poached-egg" plant *Limnanthes douglasii*, and *Phacelia campanulata*. These both flower abundantly from late May until September, with, respectively, bright yellow and white, and deep gentian blue blooms.

Another ingredient will be various herbaceous clematis. These can be grown without support to form loose mounds from which long shoots will scramble among the other plants. I have planted two types of *Clematis integrifolia* 'Hendersonii', with blue nodding bell-like flowers, and a striking new pink-flowered form, 'Pangbourne Pink'. *C. heracleifolia* 'Wyevale' has pale-blue scented flowers, and my other clematis, *recta* 'Purpurea', has white flowers offset by purple foliage.

Herbaceous clematis are invaluable but little-known compared to their climbing relatives. Vigorous growers, they do not flower until June (continuing into September), but will rapidly increase from their present small clumps of new shoots to show quantities of bold, fresh foliage.

The main work on the plot has now been done, but there will be additions during the next few weeks. Because the sun has yet to warm the earth I have delayed sowing the seeds of the annuals. I will do this during the next fortnight, making a succession of sowings to extend the flowering period.

Resurrecting what has always been a somewhat "dead" area of the garden has been rewarding. In a large garden, such areas can be forgotten about, but in one the size of mine they are always visible, demanding improvement.

● For information about Haddonstone products, a catalogue, and your nearest stockist, telephone 01604 770711.

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Emerging perennials, such as peonies, will benefit from a sprinkling of Gromore, or a similar general fertiliser.*
- *Except in the coldest parts of the country, begin sowing the seeds of hardy annuals into their growing position. (Giving the soil time to warm up improves germination.) For prolonged flowering, sow the seeds in batches over, say, a fortnight.*
- *Dead-head the seedpods of daffodils to give stronger bulbs and better flowering next year.*
- *Combat whitefly in the greenhouse early by hanging up some sticky cards.*
- *Begin sowing radish seed into well-fertilised ground. Thin out the seedlings later, so that growth goes into the roots, rather than the foliage.*
- *Plant early potato varieties, having first top-dressed the ground with a general fertiliser. Plant main crop varieties in a fortnight or so. The sprouted tubers should be planted about 4-6in deep.*



Start sowing radish seed

Gardens to visit



GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

Bampton Manor in Oxfordshire is renowned for its herbaceous borders

☐ **Speke Hall, The Walk, Speke, Liverpool (0151-427 7231).**

Seven miles southeast of city centre, off A561. Open daily and on Bank Holidays (except Mondays and Good Friday). 1-5.30pm from April 1 to end October. £1.

Speke is one of England's most stunning Elizabethan black-and-white timbered houses. It suffers from being in one of the least enviable positions of any National Trust property, hemmed between the Merseyside conurbation and Liverpool airport. Given this setting, the formal gardens around the house and its courtyard, and the larger woodland gardens towards the perimeters, shield the house to a remarkable degree. Two old yew trees in the courtyard would appear to be as venerable as the house. In spring, the main attraction is the woodland and water garden, which the Trust has recently created. There are lots of daffodils along the paths, and camellias are a feature in the woodland garden and along the stream.

☐ **Arbuthnott Castle, Laurencekirk, Grampian (01561 361226).**

On B967, eight miles from Laurencekirk and three miles from Inverbervie. Open daily all year. 9am-5pm. £1.50, children £1.

The east coast of Scotland seems an unlikely place for garden visiting in spring. But Arbuthnott's garden benefits from being only a few miles from the sea. The series of steep, grass terraces in front of the castle date from the 17th century. At the bottom of the slope, the Bervie Water Valley provides the garden's setting. The terraces have long, diagonal grass paths, with views from one end to another. In spring, visitors are greeted by primroses and celandines covering the grass on either side of the drive, with banks of rhododendrons behind.

☐ **Glendurgan (01326 250906) and Trebah (01326 250448), Mawnan Smith, near Falmouth, Cornwall.**

Both four miles southwest of Falmouth and signed from A39. Glendurgan is open Mar-Oct, Tues-Sat and Bank Hol Mons, 10.30am-5.30pm (last admission 4.30pm, closed April 14). £2.80. Trebah is open daily all year, 10.30am-5pm. £2.80.

Although these two gardens have different owners they are so close (about half a mile) that the garden visitor can have a memorable day visiting both. They were created by members of the Fox family. Glendurgan during the 1820s and Trebah during the 1840s, and they occupy similar spectacular natural sites. From both houses, ravines drop away to the Helford river in the distance. The steep valley sides and the lower areas in the middle are planted with a trees, shrubs and spring bulbs, many rare and tender. The New Zealand tree fern *Dicksonia antarctica* is a feature in both gardens. These are two gardens where the introduction of outstanding plants to a dramatic natural landscape has continued to an unusually high standard. Glendurgan is in run by the National Trust, while Major and Mrs Tony Hibbert, who took on Trebah in 1981 in a state of neglect, have established the Trebah Garden Trust.

☐ **Bampton Manor (01993 850231) and Weald Manor (01993 850224), Bampton, Oxfordshire.**

Open tomorrow, 2-5.30pm. £1.50, children free.

These two gardens are roughly half a mile apart at opposite ends of Bampton village. Bampton Manor has long been admired, as it belonged to the present owners' predecessor, Peggy Munster, whose renowned double herbaceous borders are still a feature. Now there is a strong emphasis on spring planting throughout the garden's different areas and enclosures. One area under mature trees is kept as a wild garden, with daffodils, snake's head fritillaries and other bulbs growing in the grass. Quantities of miniature bulbs, including daffodils and tulips, are a delightful feature, while from all parts of the garden the village church spire provides the backdrop to views. A smaller garden surrounds Weald Manor. Yew topiary and shrub borders lead to an area of woodland garden with a small lake on one side. Daffodils and anemones are among the spring-flowering plants beneath an interesting collection of trees, such as an American buckeye.

☐ **Great Thurloe Hall, Haverhill, Suffolk.**

In Great Thurloe village, on B1061. Open tomorrow, 2-5pm. £1.50, children free.

The annual spring garden opening at Great Thurloe allows visitors to enjoy the riverside walks and sweeping carpets of daffodils. Immaculate terraces, borders and lawns surround the Georgian house, the grass running down in a gentle slope to the River Stour, which flows through the garden. About 20 acres in all, including the walled kitchen garden, Great Thurloe is the ideal place for a spring walk. Willows are dotted along the banks of the Stour, but the quantities of daffodils along the banks and around the lake, through which the river flows, is the feature that most people remember.

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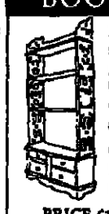
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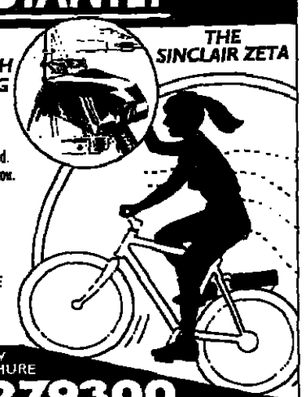
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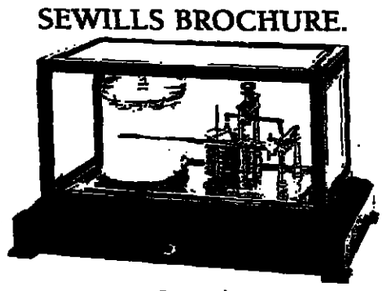
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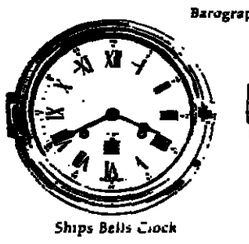
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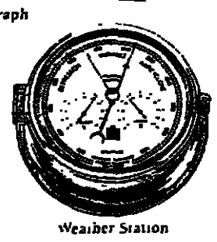
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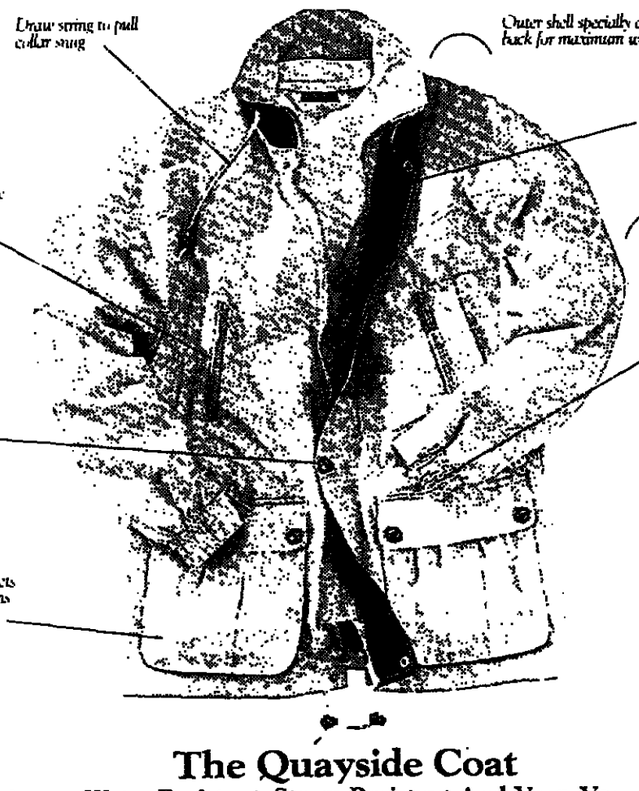
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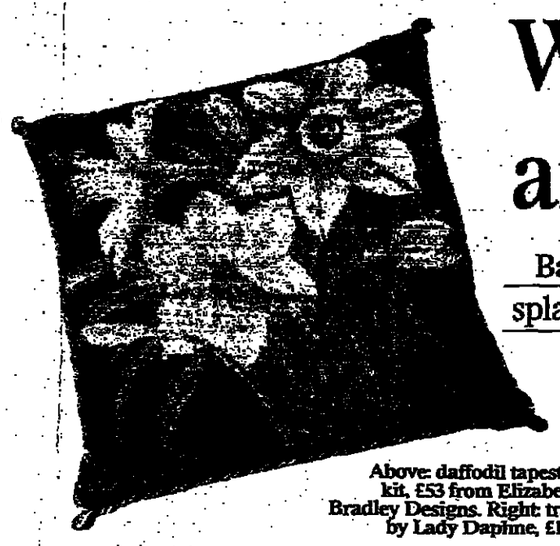
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Banish those dark, dreary winter days with a splash of bright floral patterns around the house



Above: daffodil tapestry kit, £53 from Elizabeth Bradley Designs. Right: tray by Lady Daphne, £119



Wastepaper bin, £62.50, by Andrea Maffin

Winter is officially over and, we hope, the last snow of the year has fallen. It is time to put a spring in your step as you head for the shops.

Just as daffodils and tulips make an annual appearance when we are bemoaning the lack of colour in the garden, so items decorated with spring flowers have the same cheering effect on our miserable, winter morale.

At Laura Ashley, a range of breakfast crockery with a daffodil motif is certain to kick-start the most lethargic among us in the mornings. There are oversized cups and saucers (£9.95) for tea or coffee, sturdy mugs (£5.95) chunky egg cups (£3.95) and milk jugs (£9).

Laura Ashley has also hit on a winning theme with its new tulip range, which includes boldly printed cotton furnishing fabric (£11.95 per metre, 122cm wide) in three colourways: plaster pink, chambray and taupe. A selection of accessories complement the fabric: lampshades (£16.95); duvet covers (single, £40; double, £50; large double, £60); pillow cases (£12.95); curtains (from £60); drawliners (£4.95); and padded coat hangers (£8.95 for two).

For the dressing table, there are ceramic vases (£5.95) and lidded pots (£9.95) with a spongeware tulip design in coral and green. Hand-painted limed wood picture frames sell in two sizes (£9.95 and £14.95) and, to continue the theme outdoors, there are duffle bags (£24.95) and travel bags (£39.95).

Also in the high street, House of Fraser has picked up on the trend for spring flowers with a range of tulip-shaped glassware. Candleholders, tall-stemmed goblets or vases with elegant fluted "petals" are available in frosted white, jade green, blue or sunshine yellow (from £5.99 to £29.99).

In the British Crafts Room at Liberty, artist Stephanie Middleton has designed an elegant wine goblet, perfect for toasting the arrival of spring. Translucent daffodils in soft golden yellow are painted on to clear glass, and intertwined with lines from Shakespeare (£9.95 each).

Abigail Mill's intricate needlework is also stocked at Liberty, or available by mail order from her Norfolk studio. She combines hand-dyed felt, shot velvets and organzas with metallic freehand machine embroidery to create three-dimensional framed floral designs. The delicate bell-shaped fritillary, which flowers in April, is her inspiration for a spring embroidery, in either a 4in or 5in design (£40 and £45 respectively, including frame, plus £1.50 postage and packing per item).

For those who prefer to stitch their own masterpieces, Elizabeth Bradley Designs produces needlepoint kits inspired by the Berlin woolworkers of the 19th century. The company's Four Seasons range includes a "Spring" design, with a basket of tulips, daffodils, bluebells, primroses, primulas, violets, apple blossom and wallflowers (£53 per kit).

In its Botanical Garden series, individual kits feature a variety of seasonal blooms, including "Crocus", "Daffodil", "Tulip" and "Auricula" (£55 per kit). These kits are easy — if a little time-consuming — to complete in simple cross-stitch, with the finished 16in square embroidery ideal as a cushion front or framed piece.

Textile designer Neil Bottle provides the less artistic among us with ready-made, handpainted cushions. Using dupion silk as a base, Bottle employs hand-painting, stencilling and printing to create designs which mix botanical drawings with calligraphy. His current collection is called "Rain Daisy", and uses this tiny spring flower as the focal point for cushions (14in, £50; 22in, £75). His rich textiles are also available as neck ties (£32), silk scarves and stoles (from £89), and wall-hangings (from £30 per square foot).

Famous for her hand-printed silk scarves, Georgina Von Etzdorf has also used a spring flower as the basis for her current collection. The "Minerva" range features a design of scattered tulips, available in a satin finish (long scarf, £145; shawl £345) in pastel shades.

Andrea Maffin's home accessories are made from handmade paper layered with reproduced etchings, and include wastepaper bins with a tulip design (£62.50) and wooden trays with a complementary theme (from £42.50).

The ancient British craft of toleware has been revived at Lady Daphne, on Sloane Street, south-west London, which stocks painted trays adorned with tulips (£119). Also available are watering cans (£74), handpainted firescreens featuring your own choice of flowers (from £260), and handfinished silk cushions with colourful auriculas on a cream background (£160).

Pretty porcelain and enamel boxes are sold at Halcyon Days, many of which have intricate floral designs. Every year, the company produces a porcelain seal in the form of a bouquet of flowers, with the date inscribed on its "ribbon". The 1995 seal has a posy of yellow and purple crocuses, with a vermeil mount set with an agate (£145).



Art History Design's spring collection includes wooden wall-mounted shelving, hand-painted with daffodil or pansy-filled flowerpots along the back, and a gingham tablecloth-effect on the shelf itself (brackets £35; shelves with a triple flowerpot design £75; keyholders £19.99). It also sells tall flowerpots with hand-painted tulips around the rim in bright orange and yellow (£8.50 each, 6½ in diameter).

Acres Farm, which produces a large selection of decorative lampshades, has come up with a cheerful antidote to the last of the wintry evenings. Candleshades with daffodils, primroses or pansies (£9 each) will be a constant reminder of sunnier days and long, balmy summer evenings to come.

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- ☐ Laura Ashley: stores nationwide.
- ☐ House of Fraser Stores: 0171-963 2236 for stockists.
- ☐ The British Crafts Room at Liberty, Regent Street, London W1 (0171-734 1234).
- ☐ Abigail Mill: 01603 760955.
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Above: a selection from Laura Ashley's collection. Below: framed fritillary embroidery, £40, by Abigail Mill

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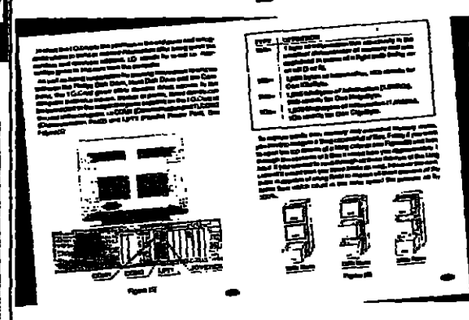
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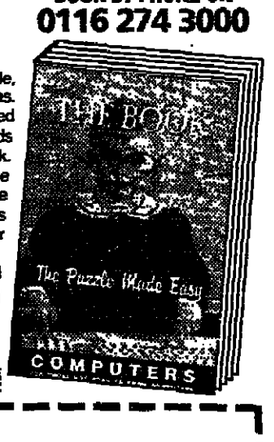
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NORTH OF THE THAMES

BAKER ST NW1 Huge 2 bd 2 rec fit prtrd blk bargain @ £184,950 Sandfords 071 723 9988

BAYSWATER Immac 4th floor 3 bed 2 bath balcony flat in lux blk Pkng. prtr £295,000 L/h Westbourne Est 0171 727 8612

BAYSWATER Garden Square 2 bed flat with sole use of gdns. £129,950 Share f/hold Westbourne Est 0171 727 8612

LITTLE VENICE/Maida Vale The specialist local agents Vickers & Co 071 289 1692

CHISWICK W4 O/Looking river rarely avail exec style hse, very well maintained, approx 10 yr old, sth facing living rm lge kit/break rm sth facing patio gdn, study, 4 beds, 2 baths, 2 clks parking F/H £335,000 0171 376 8609 Alison Hunter

FULHAM SW6 Haldane Road Two bedroom terraced house tastefully presented and retain ing some original features. Double reception, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, hall and landing. Central heating, stripped and polished flooring to reception and south facing garden Price £167,950 Freehold Halifax Property Services Tel 0171 736 6406.

HAMMERSMITH, W6. A lower maisonette close to River arranged over 3 flrs, 2 recs, 3/4 beds, bed 4/study, kit/diner 2 baths, 20' garden £199,950 L/H Royston 0181 563 7100

HIGHGATE N6 4/5 bed det hse + dbl gge exclusive development by the Heath £699,500 Sandfords 071 723 9988

MAIDA VALE W9 beautiful 2 bed conv o'lkng Park £145,000 ono Sandfords 071 723 9988

NW8 bright 1 bed newly refurb flat in well established p/b blk heart St Johns Wood. L/h £86,000 0171 722 1154 (T)

ST JOHNS WD NW8 Lux 3 bd prtrd blk prime loc £229,950 ono Sandfords 071 723 9988

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W1 3 bed mais, 2 receps, 2 baths GCH 67 yr lse £215,000 Banbury Heal 0171 404 3422.

W12 Substantial 3 storey Vict hse with many orig features 5 beds, 2 baths, dble recep, kit, utility, cellar & patio gdn. FH £225,000 Halifax Property Services 081 740 6261.

EALING W5
Double fronted SD house in popular conservation area. 4 bedrooms, bathroom, seperate w.c., through lounge, dining room, new Danish kitchen/breakfast room, utility room/w.c. GCH. 150ft secluded garden. Close schools, parks, services. No chain £295,000 F/Hold.
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CLARENCE GATE GARDENS NW1
Adjacent Baker Street, 2 mins walk Regent's Park. Sunny 2 bedroom, 3rd floor appartment in Edwardian Mansion block. Gas central heating, very large reception room, balcony, porter and lifts. Low service charges. £182,250
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FULHAM SW6
Victorian terrace house, 2 entrances + back access. Double reception room with balcony. Unusually large kitchen/family room. 3/4 beds, 2 bath, CH, sunny walled garden. Near Parsons Green tube.
£249,950 freehold. No agents.
Tel: 0171 385 4774.

HOLLAND PARK
Luxury period town house newly refurbished to high spec. 4 dble bedrms, 2 ensuite bathrms, + shower rm, 24ft reception, dining/conservatory leading to patio, Smallbone kitchen, clkrm/WC, roof garden
No chain. £495,000 FHLD
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European company relocating key staff require 1 & 2 bed flats & 4/5 bed houses in SW6, SW7 & W8 areas. Rents from £250-£650 pw furnished/ Unfurnished will also be considered.
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Immaculate 4 bed/2 bath Vict terr house with orig features. Lge kit/diner, dble reception & wine cellar /storage rm. Pretty patio garden.
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Private Sale
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MELROSE GARDENS W6
Victorian terrace family house. 5 beds, 2 bath, 2 receptions, fully fitted kitchen, cellar, garden, residents parking. Quiet conservation area. Excellent position for all public transport. £340,000 Freehold. Including carpets.
0171 603 1817

FULHAM SW6
Superb 5 bedroom house close to Fulham Broadway tube. Elegent double reception, exceptional beamed lower ground floor with exposed bricks leading into conservatory, S. facing gdn.
F/hold £465,000
0171 223 1724

Aylesford & Company
MUST GO
REDCLIFFE ROAD, SW10
Either to sell or rent. A well presented family house with pretty paved garden 2 receps: Conserv: 5 Beds: 4 baths: WC
To sell: In the region of £800,000
To Rent: In excess of £1,000 per week
Subject to Contract
All Offers Please
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LANCASTER GATE W2.
2 bed split level flat with roof terrace, private off street parking, porter, 1 min tube & park, recently refurbished, excellent order throughout.
£147,500
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Hm 071 262 8109

MAIDA VALE W9
Raised ground floor flat, own private garden, 2 double bedrooms, spacious lounge, no agents.
£120,000
0171 286 6051

CITY & WEST END

PRIMROSE HILL /REGENTS PARK
4 storey period house backing onto Regents Canal private mooring rights, pretty gdn. F/F pine dining/kit, sitting rm, drawing rm, 2 dble bedrms, 2 single, 2 bathrms, cloaks + s/c gdn flat with 3 rooms & bath
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£163,000 for qck sale
0635 254318

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& coach house Bromley. C 1830 Stucco Regency balcony, 4 bed, 3 rec, kit/brk, 2 bath, dress rm, 1 clk. Gas ch. Garage, OSP. Secluded 200 ft garden. Well equipped Coach House can let £550 pm. London BR 20 min.
£285,000 FH.
Must be seen 081 460 0882.

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Spacious two double bed flat, large reception, modern kitchen, bathroom, unity. Gas central heating. 8 mins walk Streatham BR station.
124 yr lease
£55,000 for quick sale.
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0171 202 5732 office

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Close BR,tube & buses. Large kitchen, cellar, light living room. Antique style bathroom and light bedroom. Close Battersea Park & Clapham Common. Quiet street
£79,995
071 226 8283

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

GRADE II REGENCY
SW2. Dble fronted hse in conservation area opp. Park. 3 rec, studio, 4 bd, 2 bth, gge, pkg, walled gdn. Excel cond.
£185,000
0171 274 9140

WEST PUTNEY SW15
Recently refurb mod terraced hse in peaceful pvte close. 2 rec (split level), 4 bed, 2 bth, gge. S.facing patio leading to lge walled communal gdn inc. prvt tennis court.
Offers over £225,000
Tel: 0181 789 7492

CITY & WEST END

BLOOMSBURY W.C.1 Judd St. Bright 2 bed flat in PBB, etc. views over London. 993 yr lease. £102k 0171 278 9093

W1 MEWS house, 3 beds, 3 bathrms, lge recep, single gge. 118 yr lse. £418,000 for quick sale Wallsway 0171 224 0989

BLOOMSBURY WC1
Spacious period 2 bd, 1st flr prtrd mansion flt in the heart of West End. Hallway to panelled rec, Master dbl bdrm, lge sgl bdrm incl. vanity unit. White ceramic kit & bthrm. Sep. wc. Period features, 10' clngs, 7' sash wndws. Entry phn. 2 tel. pts. Cable TV. GCH. L.H. Optional lge storerm. Redec. to classical element. Ideally suit prof or as a rental investment.
£142,500
Tel: 0171 6310305. No agents.

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W11 1 bed flat high ceilings in p/b blk O'lkng comm gdns. £89,950. Share f/hold Westbourne Est 0171 727 8612

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Please contact 0171 373 4473 (day) 0171 824 8404 (eve)

KENSINGTON WARWICK GARDENS
Spacious attractive house, 45' reception room, 45' masterbedrm/ dressing rm, 4 other bedrms, 5 bathrms incl power showers, dining rm, etc. Mature rear garden approx 100'x40', front garden 35'x40'. Planning permission for parking 2 cars if required.
£1.2 million.F/H
Normal commission paid to bona fide agents.
Tel: 071 493 2639.

CHELSEA GILSTON RD SW10
Period terraced stucco house in Conservation Area, 4 bedrms, 2 bathrms, 1 ensuite, pretty drawing rm, dining rm, large kitchen, cloakrm, patio. Use of The Boltons communal gardens. No chain. FHLD
£575,000.
Tel: 071 351 3800.

CHELSEA SW10
Bright beautifully decorated maisonette.
2 double bedrooms
2 marble bathrooms
All mod cons. Off St Pkg
Leasehold private sale
£189,000
Tel 0171 351 3338

MELBURY RD W14
Unmodernised neo-Georgian townhouse, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 receptions, garden, garage, off street parking for 2 cars. 67 year lease
£445,000.
0171 937 1499.

Redcliffe Square SW10
Very sunny 1 bed top floor flat with large roof terrace and views over garden square
Private sale
£145,000.
071 373 6269.

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GROSVENOR SQUARE W1
Recently refurbished 6th floor flat in prestigious block in prime Mayfair location.
26 x 25 south facing reception. 2 beds, ensuite bathroom & shower room, fully fitted kitchen, guest's cloakroom.
Lift. 24 hour porterage
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No Agents

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£139,500 inc Freehold
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WIMBLEDON

SW19 Excellent family hse nr to station, 5 beds, 3 baths, living rm, dining rm, kit/break, rm, utility rm, playrm. Gge, big gdn. GCH. F/H £320,000. Tel 0171 376 8609 Alison Hunter

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Offers considered on £310,000.
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4 beds, detached, GCH, double glazing, mature sunny garden, garage, fitted kitchen, 2 recep. Huntingdon station 10 mins. London 40 mins. Carpets included.
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About 10 acres (Further land available)
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Tel/Fax: 01884 861276

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Old Polzeath
Charming period fisherman's cottage, 3 bed, 2 rec, 100 metres from beach, small walled terraced suntrap back garden.
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Spectacular sea and rural views. Splendid isolation but easily accessible. Between Rock and Trebetherick. Modern house, 4 double bed, 2 bath, large lounge, Miele kitchen, 1/3 acre mature garden, double garage. Exeter 1 hour.
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Fine period property. 1 acre of formal gardens. 3 reception rooms, office & study. Country kitchen, gas fired cga. Lge utility. Rear entrance hall. Fine main entrance hall with sweeping stair case. 6 dble bedrooms. 3 bathrooms. Many original features. Excellent decorative order. GCH. Stable block with P.P. for conversion
£285,000
01328 863265

ESSEX/SUFFOLK
Elizabethan det. thatched dble cottage in small village, grade 2 renovated, original doors, floors. 3 Dble bedrms, 3 recept, box room, 2 stairs, boarded loft, detached powered studio Parking 2, 3 cars. Lge lawned gdn, 2 brooks. Nr Halstead. BR Bures Marks Tey. 25 Min. M.11
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£145,000.
Telephone 01202 295247

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18th Century Purbeck stone cottage, sympathetically renovated and extended. Well planned and spacious accommodation including 4 bedrooms and a galleried drawing room. Delightful secluded position in ¼ acre with fine views of the Isle of Wight and Purbeck Hills.
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18th Century thatched stone cottage. GCH. Kitchen / Breakfast rm, 3 beds, bathroom. Separate accomodation lounge, bedroom & bathroom. Utility. Double garage. Outbuildings. Landscaped gardens. Conservation area.
£215,000
01305 812520

NORTH DORSET
Immaculate 17th C. farmhouse, 6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 3 receptions with inglenook fireplaces, kitchen utility room, laundry, conservatory, garaging for 3 cars, 2 stables, landscaped gardens with pond bordered by a stream. Set in approx 10 acres.
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01258 860320(eves)
01258 472882(day)

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A beach or boat lovers 4 bedroom detached house in brilliant position, only 200yds from the harbour & 3 mins walk to the best golden sandy beach in the UK. Tastefully furnished and rarely used second home in immaculate condition so this much sought after location. £195,000
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HEMEL HEMPSTEAD Boxmoor 5 beds 3 rec 2 baths Charm Dble gge mature gdn Quiet Conv BR £169,950 01442 234097 (eve)

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Large detached contemporary house in Aston village. 3 reception, 4 bed, kitchen, utility, bath, cloaks, large rooms, double garage, corner site. Attractive landscaped rear courtyard, south side. Lawns to front. £198,000.
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BETWEEN St Albans and Hemel
5 bed barn conversion
Superb and very spacious. Kitchen/breakfast room, 3 receptions, 2 beds with ensuite, family bathroom, utility, 2 WC, Set in ¼ acre, fabulous views, double garage.
£337,500ono.
0374 645613

VICTORIAN FARMHOUSE
Substantial, det. Within M25. 6 bds, 3 bths, 5 recs in grnds of approx. 2 acres. Small gdn centre on adjoining 2 acres.
£495,000
01923 672781

KENT

NR CANTERBURY M2 6 miles Chilham 2 miles. A large period country house with 6 beds, 4 receps & 3 baths. In mature gardens, woodland & paddock of over 6 acres. Price Guide: £346,000 Calcutt Maclean. Bridge St Wye Ashford TN25 5DP 01233 812060

HAYES, WEST WYCOMBE.
A new individually designed detached house close to all amenities, 4 bedrooms, en suite shower room & luxury bathroom. Spacious lounge with open fireplace, separate dining room, fitted kitchen, Gas CH, DG. Landscaped garden & integral garage.
£165,000.
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HISTORIC Rutland. Excellent listed barn conversion in village - 4 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Original beams, stone and brickwork throughout Featuring unusual original arched Victorian windows. Double garage and garden. Close to Rutland Water. Golfcourse and A1. Peterborough 38 mins. Leicester 40 mins. £130,000. Telephone 0572 813207.

NORTH WEST

KNUTSFORD CHESHIRE
Modern Exec detached house, 4 dble beds, 30ft sitting room. Large garden. Dble garage. GCH. Ideal re-location, convenient commuting Manchester and Liverpool. Competitively priced for quick sale.
£149,950
0565 634083

ORMSKIRK W.LANCS
Detached house, 4/5 bedrooms, Lounge, Dining, Morning, Large kitchen and utility, study. 3/4 acre landscape gardens. Secluded but not isolated. 1 Mile town centre. Built for present owner 1962.
£275,000
01695 573051

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OWNER EMIGRATING Must Sell 17th Century Farmhouse full of period charm and character 4/6 bedrooms exposed beams and inglenook fireplace Guide £185,000 01993 708918

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Georgian farmhouse of character set in 1 acre lovingly cared for walled garden, 5 bedrms/2 bathrms, 2 reception overlooking garden, farmhouse kitchen with Aga. Nr. Sonning, amenities, BR (Paddington 25 mins).
£315,000.
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SCOTLAND

IDYLLIC Scottish Highland cottage. Lovely siting. CH. 2 dbl, 1 sg. 2 bthrms. 2 reception. £63,000. 01807 580468

£20,000
will buy my detached holiday cottage in the beautiful fishing village of Gardenstown near Banff, Scotland. Marvellous cliff top views over Gamrie Bay. 3 crowns Scottish tourist board approved, fully furnished.
Contact Mr Garside
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NEAR GUILDFORD
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Very attractive turn of the century cottage style house in quiet rural location. Completely renovated. 4 reception, pine kitchen, utility, 4 beds, 2 baths, planning permission to add 2 beds, bathroom, family room and study. Beautiful garden, fenced paddock, small stable. 1.5 acres
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Mr William Monsen,
W/ends & Mon-Fri after 5pm
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SWITZERLAND.
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£195,000
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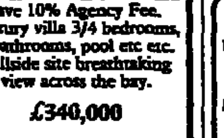
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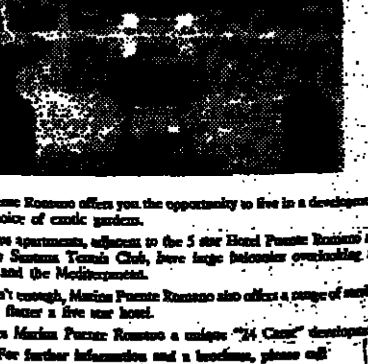
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Luxury 1 bed apt, modern furnishings, Bosch kitchen, large sun terrace with magnificent sea views. No transfer taxes, etc. Excellent letting income. Private sale.
£64,000
Tel: 0372 463198.

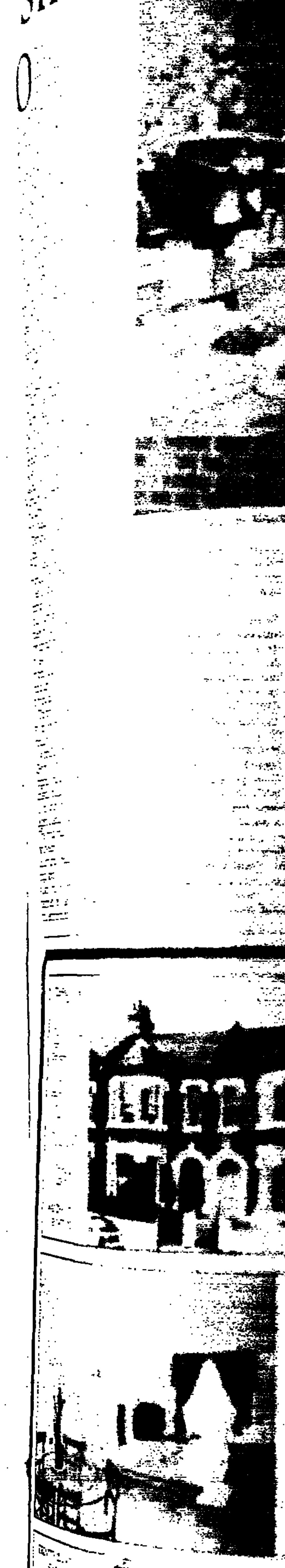
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EVERYONE SAYS IT'S PARADISE
Estepona area. Lge beamed 3 dble bedrm (3 bathrms ensuite) country villa, + s/c apt, unrestored cottage, outbuildings set in 3 acres landscaped subtropical grounds in green tranquil valley on small ridge. Swimming Pool. Own well & springs of mountain water. Only 10 mins beach. OIRO £385,000.
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SOUTHERN SPAIN
Beautiful country home on 7.4 acre hill with panoramic views of Ronda mountains and Malaga, 15 mins from coast. Open plan lounge, f/f kitchen, 3 bed/2 bath, shower, gge. Pool. SAT TV. Own well, Nr. golf. Private sale
Must be seen to be appreciated!
£275,000.
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Smallhold



هذا من الأصل

Farms under 50 acres are in great demand from market gardeners and livestock specialists

Smallholding, big opportunity

Originally perceived as a stepping-stone to farming, smallholdings are becoming increasingly sought-after and are now in short supply. These days, however, buyers tend not to be farmers, but market gardeners, equestrian or pedigree livestock enthusiasts, and those seeking "the good life", albeit sustained by a second income.

A smallholding can be a plant nursery, market garden, "pick your own" fruit farm, or vineyard, usually between three and 20 acres, and up to 50 acres for farms rearing sheep or specialist livestock. A dairy farm of 100 acres can support two adults successfully, but the same cannot be said of an arable unit of a similar size. Away from mainstream farming, a horticultural enterprise (a nursery or market garden) can survive on as little as three acres because of the intensive nature of the operation.

In the southwest, smallholdings, particularly those with equestrian facilities, are going from strength to strength, according to Richard Anstis of West Country estate agent, Palmer Snell. "The greatest demand has been for plots up to five acres, particularly those with pony paddocks," he says.

Demand is reported to be in excess of supply in Somerset, Dorset and Devon, with specific shortfalls in smallholdings between 20 and 50 acres. These are primarily used for specialist livestock farming, such as Jacob's sheep or Old Spot pigs. "The price for agricultural land has gone up by £400 per acre in the past six months, and when you get down to three acres, up to £4,000 an acre is not unusual," says Mr Anstis.

The price of agricultural property in general in the region is forecast to continue to rise.

A smallholding at Winkleigh in Devon, with about 19 acres of organic pasture, woodlands, orchards, meadows and marshland, is on offer for £160,000, through agent Palmer Snell (01935 812218). The price includes a 17th-century four-bedroom thatched house, a courtyard, traditional out-buildings and a stable. For the past 14 years, the owners have organically farmed the land and encouraged the enrichment of flora and fauna on this attractive smallholding about nine miles from Okehampton, on the edge of Dartmoor National Park.



The farm-shop at Blacksmith's Meadow near Stowmarket (above and below), on sale for £250.000

In East Anglia, smallholdings are in constant demand, according to estate agent Savills. The market is specialised and buyers are generally market gardeners and horticulturalists. The Ipswich office of Savills (01473 226191) is asking £250,000 for Blacksmith's Meadows, a smallholding with an established farm-shop business near Stowmarket in Suffolk. The price includes a modern three-bedroom house, out-buildings and seven acres under horticultural production, including strawberries, winter vegetables and chrysanthemums.



The three-bedroom house set in seven acres

An attractive family house in ten acres of landscaped gardens and grounds, with an adjoining established specialist nursery, near Dereham in Norfolk, is on offer for £185,000 through agent Strutt & Parker in Norwich (01603 617431). Lavender House comes with four bedrooms and four reception rooms; there is also a range of out-buildings used for the nursery business, specialising in rare plants, shrubs and trees.

In the Yorkshire Dales, there are a number of small farms for sale, usually with a stone-built farmhouse, out-buildings and up to 50 acres of pastureland.

One of the prettiest smallholdings for sale in North Yorkshire is Throstle Gill, a small Dales farm in 33 acres of pasture and meadowland, once used for grazing sheep, near the village of Dalton. Strutt & Parker in Harrogate (01423 561274) is asking £325,000 for the property, which includes a modernised five-bedroom stone farmhouse, a two-bedroom cottage, stabling and farm buildings.

Prices slip further west in Wales, where a farmhouse with grazing land can be bought for as little as £80,000. Penrheol Farm, at Llanynys, near the Welsh border market town of Builth Wells, comprises a three-bedroom stone farmhouse, a range of out-buildings, five loose boxes and three acres of paddocks and orchards. The asking price is £79,950 and the agent is GA Property Services in Hereford (01432 276266).

If a vineyard is more to your taste, John D Wood in Lymington (01590 677233) is asking £390,000 for Lymington Vineyard at the southern edge of the New Forest, close to the Solent, which includes six acres of established vines. It comes with a five-bedroom period cottage, winery, shop and 31 acres of orchard, paddocks and woodland on the edge of the Avon.

CHERYL TAYLOR

CASE HISTORY

Graham Smith and Marlene Scott bought their smallholding in south Wales to expand a thriving nursery business. "We started in our cottage garden, but soon ran out of land and had to find something bigger," says Mr Smith.

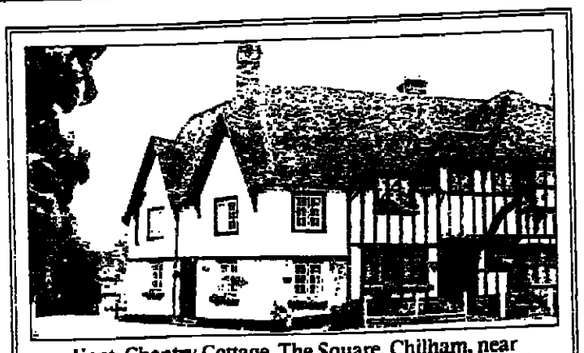
They found it in the hills above Carmarthen: ten acres of mixed woodlands and farmland, with its own stream, a ramshackle farmhouse and barns.

"We bought the property jointly with Marlene's daughter, Anne-Marie, and her partner, Sean, who are professional artists. They wanted outbuildings to start a craft centre, and we needed land for our nursery."

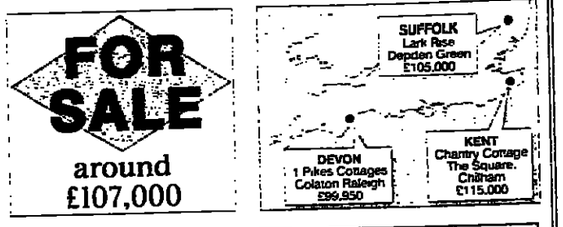
They bought the property in April 1994 for £92,000. Overgrown woods have been cut back to make a waterside nature reserve, grazing land has been terraced for planting, and a stone barn converted into a sales office.

Mr Smith estimates the project has cost him £20,000 on top of the purchase price. The nursery will open on May 5, concentrating on rare alpines, herbs, bulbs and cottage garden plants.

● *Old Barn Nursery, Llwynteg Ffynnon-ddrain, Carmarthen, Dyfed (01267 237275).*



Kent: Chantry Cottage, The Square, Chilham, near Canterbury. Grade II listed cottage with small rear patio garden, in a village renowned for its period properties. Two bedrooms (one with dressing area/washroom), bathroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen, cellar/study. About £115,000 (GA Property Services, 01227 454925).





Devon: 1 Pikes Cottages, Colaton Raleigh. Grade II listed cottage with lawned front garden, rear cobbled courtyard and views over the surrounding countryside. Three bedrooms, bathroom, two reception rooms, study, modernised kitchen, utility room and cloakroom. About £99,950 (Fulfords, 01395 443758).



Suffolk: Lark Rise, Depden Green, near Bury St Edmunds. Detached Victorian house in lawned gardens, with views over village green and farmland. Three bedrooms, bathroom, sitting room, dining hall, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room. Garage. About £105,000 (Bedfords, 01284 769999). C.T.

JESSICA ROAD, SW18

Delightful Victorian terraced house with 25ft kitchen, huge loft suitable for conversion and attractive decoration. 4 beds, bath, shower rm, 2 recepts, kit/b'fast rm, loft, cellar, garden.

Freehold £235,000

WANDSWORTH: 0181-871 3033



CAMPDEN ST, W8

A beautifully refurbished 2 floor modern cottage in a street of 19th century houses. 3 beds, bath, shower rm, recep, kit, clkrm, patio, garage.

Freehold £450,000

KENSINGTON: 0171-727 0705



TRINITY ROAD, SW19

A Victorian family house with excellent views of South Park Gardens. 5 beds, 2 baths, shower rm, drawing rm, garden.

Freehold £340,000

WIMBLEDON: 0181-944 7172



ORBELL STREET, SW11

Spacious Victorian house with roof conversion and conservatory addition to ground floor. 4 beds, 3 baths, dbl recep, kit/dining rm, gdn.

Freehold £290,000

BATTERSEA: 0171-228 0174



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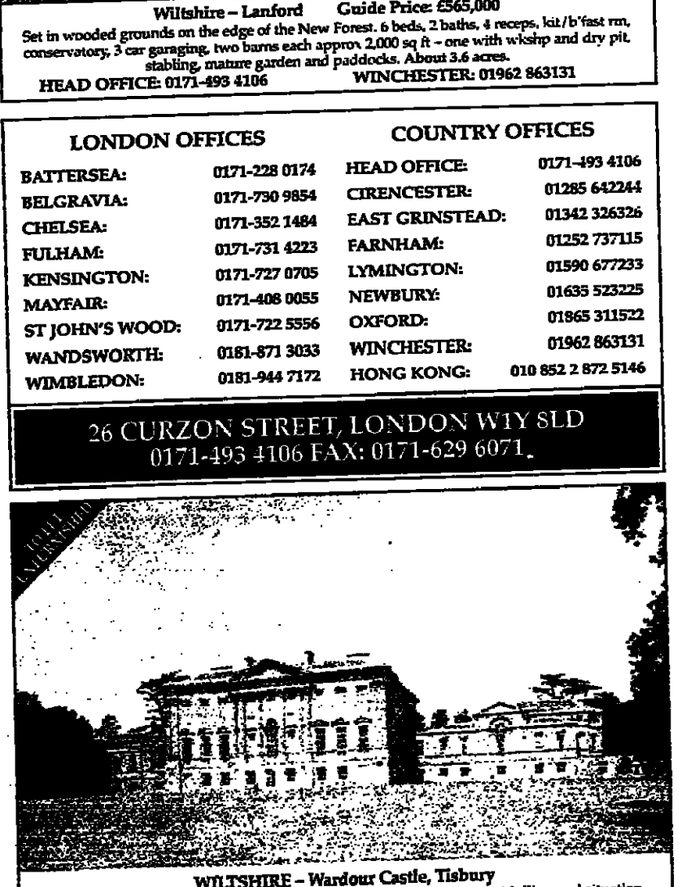
Wiltshire – Lanford Guide Price: £565,000

Set in wooded grounds on the edge of the New Forest. 6 beds, 2 baths, 4 receps, kit/b'fast rm, conservatory, 3 car garaging, two barns each approx 2,000 sq ft – one with wkshp and dry pit, stabling, mature garden and paddocks. About 3.6 acres.

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WILTSHIRE – Wardour Castle, Tisbury

Apartments with 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms in a fine historic house set in an idyllic, rural situation. Wardour Castle has been sympathetically restored to provide several spacious apartments ranging in size from 2,250 to 3,500 sq. ft. Only 2 apartments remaining.

COUNTRY LETTINGS DEPARTMENT: 01256 398004



NEW FOREST
Brockenhurst

An impressive family house fronting directly onto the forest with delightful forest views. 5 beds, 3 baths, shower rm, 4 receps, kit, b'fast/sitting rm, 3 further beds and bath on top floor, garaging, outbuildings, tennis court, garden. Forest rights. About 2 acres. Freehold

Price Guide: £575,000

LYMINGTON: 01590 677233

GLOUCESTERSHIRE – Tetbury

Attractive recently restored Grade II Listed Queen Anne House. 4 beds, 2 baths, shower rm, 2 receps, kit/b'fast rm, clkrm, cellar, garden. Freehold

Price Guide: £230,000

CIRENCESTER: 01285 642244





HAMPSHIRE
Crondall

Charming extended period cottage with spacious accommodation and pretty secluded garden. 4 beds, 2 baths, 3 receps, kit/utility, clkrm/shower rm, hall, garage, playrm/studio. Freehold

Price Guide: £225,000

FARNHAM: 01252 737115

NORTH DEVON
Wilsham

7 beds, 2 bath, shower rm, 2 receps, kit/b'fast rm, utility, barn, outbuildings, garden. JSA Gribble Booth & Taylor. 01643 702281.

Price Guide: £155,000

WINCHESTER: 01962 863131



The Duchess of Windsor's last years were spent under the dark control of her unstable lawyer, says **Anthony Holden**

A very murky Windsor soup

IN 1980, *The Sunday Times* commissioned Lord Snowdon to photograph the ailing, octogenarian Duchess of Windsor. The Karsh of Ottawa portrait on this book's jacket is poignant evidence that Snowdon never managed it. Access to the Duchess was firmly blocked by her notoriously protective lawyer, Suzanne Blum.

The writer assigned to the project, Caroline Blackwood, understandably became as fascinated by Blum as by the Duchess. Who was this formidable old crone, as elderly as her charge, who appeared to have taken control of the Duchess's life — to the point of controlling her letters and selling off her belongings — only after the Duke of Windsor's death and his widow's relapse into half-dead senility?

How had Blum so comprehensively cornered the Windsor market, and what was really going on behind those padlocked doors in the Bois de Boulogne? Was the Duchess, as rumour had it, a comatose, shrivelled old prune, artificially kept alive by Blum for her own dark reasons — a curious mix of snobbery and commerce?

When Blackwood tried to flatter her way past Cerberus to the Duchess — by writing a profile of Blum instead and getting Snowdon to take her portrait — she was entering deeper waters. The aggressively litigious Blum, protective of the Duchess to the point of obsession, was duly flattered by the attentions of Snowdon, then British royalty's next most famous divorcee. But she was also a wily old bird, whose legal expertise would stop at nothing to defend her own name as much as her client's.

Amid bizarre details of their dealings, Blackwood paints a portrait so vividly damning that publication had to await Blum's death last year, at the age of 95, eight years after her Duchess.

■ THE LAST OF THE DUCHESS
By Caroline Blackwood
Macmillan, £16.99

The maître emerges as a cunning, mendacious, unstable obsessive, prepared to rewrite recent history to establish herself as the (wholly unqualified) keeper of the Windsor flame — watchdog to a lost dynasty that could do no wrong, unlike those it left behind on the British throne. Her role as a forensic Miss Havisham, married to a dying general, and living in a cobwebbed claustrophobia of sepia rooms and drawn curtains, is half-way to the twilight zone inhabited by her beloved employer, hidden so carefully from an inquisitive world that Blackwood even wonders if she might already be dead. By the book's climax, the author finally manages to get as far as the front door — no mean feat — only to find her way barred by yet another Addams Family grotesque, the bisexual butler Georges, whose subsequent death is also recorded in her tantalisingly inconclusive epilogue.

The one survivor who does not emerge at all well, and now needs to look to his reputation, is the biographer Michael Bloch, a devoted Blum protegé apparently paid in Windsor letters.

In the process, Blum's Windsor-worship seems to have proved infectious: Blackwood's own acute case of red-carpet fever has her describing the sometime Mrs Simpson as "a figure who had changed historical events more drastically than any other woman in human history". But for all her naive, at times illiterate prose style, she evokes a dark, mysterious twilight to the Windsor story which future historians will ignore at their peril.

Despite her choice of title, Blackwood's real subject is the maître, not the Duchess. The result is a bizarre Parisian re-creation, 50 years on, of Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas. Before page one, Blum is a "necrophiliac" liar; by the end she is The Creature from the Windsor Lagoon. Somewhere in between lies a riveting story shambolically told. Is it the truth? That, as Blackwood herself concedes, "only time will elucidate".



The Duchess of Windsor in Paris: in thrall to Maître Blum

Lot of soul but no heart

■ HIGH FIDELITY
By Nick Hornby
Gollancz, £14.99

NICK HORNBY'S first book, *Fever Pitch*, was superb — the best thing to happen to English football since Eric Cantona came across the Channel. Fans of that book will approach this, his first novel, with enormous goodwill and anticipation. But many will be a bit disappointed — and not just because of the heroically self-denying refusal to include any football references.

To judge by the testimonials from Julie Burchill and the dreadful sideburns revealed in his picture, Hornby might have been keeping bad company. Certainly, much of this book reads like the worst sort of fashion-conscious journalism. Some of it — one passage describing the sexual etiquette of a one-night stand, for instance — is a lot like one of those throwaway, the-thing-about-women columns in monthly magazines. You appreciate one or two of the insights as familiar and smile, but do not laugh, at the ritual humour, but you are left with a feeling of having been only mildly entertained, because no real emotion has been laid bare. Hornby tries, but the dark stuff he brings in about deception and death comes out of nowhere and does not convince.

The story is full of almost-hot contemporary references (*Reservoir Dogs* figures strongly), and there are some cute observations about men and women, London life, suburban life, coming-to-London-from-the-suburbs life, and much more. In parts it is genuinely funny, and it also provides an excellent, tasteful, well-nigh comprehensive guide to soul music, Hornby's other obsession.

It is not a bad book, but its talented author still seems to be suffering from the same lack of confidence he revealed in *Fever Pitch* and which he injects into his main character here. Next time out, he should show what he really can do.

ROBERT CRAMPTON



Star-crossed lovers: Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor at their first wedding in 1964

Shameless or blameless?

Ginny Dougary on two very different biographies of Elizabeth Taylor, pill-popping demon or damaged star

NATURALLY, I read the sensational one first. *Liz* promises to reveal all, which, one discovers, is considerably more than one wants to know, about Elizabeth Taylor's life and loves, jewels and frocks, pop and pills.

C. David Heymann has regrettably left no stone unturned in his efforts to explore the star's numerous addictions, and in the process has developed one of his own: "listitis". In the opening pages, the reader is treated to an exhausting, but not exhaustive, catalogue of some of the drugs (23 varieties) administered to Taylor over a ten-year period. Is this interesting? Not really. But it is an early warning that the author values parading his research over entertaining the reader.

There is something camply fetishistic about the interminable descriptions of the interiors of her houses, the precise nature (colour, stone, price) of each bauble, her costume fittings, her hair-dos by Alexandre of Paris. The writing, if it can be called that, veers from the fatuous, "So grand was the occasion that anyone not on the guest list was all but forced to flee Paris [substitute any city of your choice: Heymann does] in shame", to the risibly redundant, "Richard and Elizabeth argued incessantly but invariably made up before going to bed. In this respect, their marriage resembled millions of others of far less renown."

The problem with this sort of hatchet-job biography is that it robs the story of its true drama. For us to see Elizabeth Taylor as a fallen heroine, or even simply as a fascinating phenomenon, we need to have the build-up before the fall. Heymann has been so busy compiling his lists and dishing the dirt that he has lost sight of his duty as a writer. In choosing to demonise his subject, rather than humanise her, he has produced a book which is as flatly two-dimensional and tacky as the most forgettable B-movie.

It is the "dirt", of course, which sells. Not all the revelations are gratuitous. It is genuinely interesting that the star's father, an art dealer, appears to have been a homosexual — particularly given Taylor's intense friendships with the tragic triumvirate of gay Hollywood heart-throbs, Clift, Hudson and Dean, and her commendable work raising millions of dollars for Aids research.

But it is neither very edifying or illuminating to be told about the dimensions of her husbands' organs (invariably described as "equine") or her enthusiasm for love-making, complete with sound effects and preferred positions. This is *Hollywood Babylon* without the dark laughs. And at least Kenneth Anger *knew* that he was producing a loo book.

After Heymann, Donald Spoto is a class act. If Heymann is the tabloid journalist, delivering scoop after muck-raking scoop, Spoto is the social worker earnestly seeking to prove that Elizabeth Taylor's screwy behaviour is an inevitable consequence of her screwed-up background.

Spoto's central thesis is that Taylor never had the chance to become a mature, well-rounded personality since her childhood was spent growing up on the screen. The line between make-believe and reality was further blurred when the scriptwriters, in turn, were encouraged to incorporate elements of Taylor's off-screen life into her movies. This is a smaller and quieter book than its highly-publicised counterpart; but it is the more substantial read.

■ LIZ: AN INTIMATE BIOGRAPHY OF ELIZABETH TAYLOR
By C. David Heymann
Heinemann, £16.99

■ ELIZABETH TAYLOR
By Donald Spoto
Little, Brown, £17.50

The potency of being Ernest

IN his television and film work, both as an actor and as a writer, Michael Palin has often seemed drawn to worms that turn. Martin Sproale, the hero of Palin's first novel, is another of these mild-mannered obsessives, a weedy conformist whose meekly anoraked exterior turns out to mask a core of heroic madness.

Thirty-six years old, still living at home with his mother, Martin is assistant manager at the post office in Theston, a town near the Suffolk coast. Palin's Suffolk is no pink, thatched weekend idyll: this is full-time countryside, all bungalows and bigotry, a vast windswept suburbia where the buses no longer run.

Martin is a public figure, a servant of the community; the post office stands at the heart of Theston life. But the private world of Martin's imagination is far from East Anglia's melancholy coast. A photograph of Ernest Hemingway dominates Martin's bedroom. Under its unflinching gaze, and helped on his way by a medicine chest of his hero's favourite tipples, the assistant post-office manager can fly to Havana or Harry's Bar.

Public and private worlds come together with a crash. Mr Padgett the postmaster retires, replaced by a thrusting young champion of the enterprise culture. Martin, who had expected to take charge himself, sees the institution he loves dismantled and plundered by a corrupt new regime more interested in commodities than communities. While Theston acquiesces out of fear, self-interest or greed, Martin takes a stand. With the encouragement of Ruth, a visiting American academic at work on a study of Hemingway's women, he vaults the mental barrier between his hero and himself. As magnificent disaster approaches, the beguiling comedy of small-town manners darkens faster than a Suffolk sky.

IAN BRUNSKILL

■ HEMINGWAY'S CHAIR
By Michael Palin
Methuen, £14.99



Palin: drawn to worms

Listen to the band

DESPITE its tortuous pre-publication progress — with newspapers drooling over the "juicy bits", then the forced withdrawal of three paragraphs assassinating Solti's character — this collection of interviews with 50 London Philharmonic players is a reasonable account of what goes on inside the minds of musicians. Which is? Money worries, job insecurities, resentment of authority, lustful thoughts about colleagues, jealousy of success — in fact, the same dreary thoughts as occur to toilers everywhere.

Danziger simply switches on the tape-recorder and lets his subjects ramble on until they condemn themselves out of their own mouths. But he should have added a few footnotes to give some context to the more gnomic utterances. After all, this orchestra's recent managerial history makes the last days of Caligula look like an exercise in benign paternalism. You learn nothing of that here, though you can sense that something has happened to make the players so cynical.

But the main gripe is misspelt names: truly surreal. You find, for example, "Cheetham's School", "Pulchinella", the "Musickwerein", "Cervalisch" and "George Solti" (no wonder he is cross). I do not know whether Harpa-Kolinz publishes a music dictionary, but someone there should go out and buy one.

RICHARD MORRISON

■ THE ORCHESTRA
By Danny Danziger
HarperCollins, £16.99

Derwent May reviews the critics

5/5 Pleasure ratings are awarded to a maximum of five. Column centimetres indicate the length of reviews to date in national broadsheet papers

3/5 Amis and enemies: After all the hype and the money, Martin Amis cannot have expected good reviews for his novel, *The Information* (Flamingo, £15.99). But he did not do too badly. It is a story of deadly rivalry between two novelists, one a dismal failure, the other a shallow success. "Amis is funny about both writers . . . good," said Victoria Glendinning in *The Daily Telegraph*, and in *The Times* Malcolm Bradbury wrote: "It sparkles with Amis's distinctive rage, disgust, stylistic observation, language." In *The Independent on Sunday* Allison Pearson concluded: "The writing is on fire." But in the *TLS* Adam Mars-Jones said: "It's as if he was writing a novel about a mid-life crisis, and then had a mid-life crisis", while in *The Observer* Michael Ratcliffe noted "near-hysterical envy is its generating passion" — and you would need "an appetite for male menopause-frenzy" to read all its 500 pages. "Brilliant caricature," conceded Alain de Botton in *The Sunday Telegraph* — but in *The Guardian* David Sexton called it "as subtle and realistic as a *Tom & Jerry* cartoon".
Col cms: 522

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3	THE PRIVATE LIFE OF PLANTS **David Attenborough** *(BBC)*	£17.99	4	10
4	A RUTHLESS NEED **Catherine Cookson** *(Bantam)*	15.99	6	3
5	WRITING HOME **Alan Bennett** *(Faber)*	£17.50	8	20
6	THE BLACK ALBUM **Hanif Kureishi** *(Faber)*	£14.99	0	1
7	FLAVOURS OF INDIA **Madhur Jaffrey** *(BBC)*	£12.99	2	2
8	LONG WALK TO FREEDOM **Nelson Mandela** *(Little Brown)*	£20	0	10
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NEW IN PAPERBACK

■ THE HOUSE OF SPLENDID ISOLATION
By Edna O'Brien
Phoenix, £5.99
Josie draws out her lonely, widowed middle-age in a large and decrepit house in a remote corner of Ireland. She feeds off memories and the parcels of bread and bacon left for her on the windowsill. Into this frozen, frightened existence comes a Republican terrorist on the run, a young man with "golden eyes". He stays, of course, and his presence liberates Josie even as it embroils her, unwittingly, in the murky world of terrorism. On memory, nature, love, betrayal, O'Brien's prose is as resonant and lyrical as always, but she seems ill at ease with the themes of political conflict and this fragmentary novel fails to live up to the rich promise of all its parts.

■ OPEN SECRETS
By Alice Munro
Vintage, £5.99
These elegant stories are set in periods from the mid 19th-century to the present. They take place mostly in small-town Canada but hint at wider perspectives when characters are lifted, often quite unexpectedly, out of their usual rut. Their protagonists are mostly women — awkward and determined — who do not fit in with society's expectations. One pursues her husband to Australia where he has eloped with a younger woman. Another walks away from her home in the outback, leaving her past behind her. These stories are unsettling, but wonderfully funny too.



■ THE FOLDING STAR
By Alan Hollinghurst
Vintage, £5.99
The second novel by the highly-praised author of *The Swimming-Pool Library*, this story of an Englishman's obsession with his Belgian pupil was shortlisted for the 1994 Booker Prize. A desperate passion is followed, through all the extremes of tenderness and lust — from dreams and tentative gestures to voyeurism and the use of fetishes — without evasion and in extraordinarily discriminating prose. Perhaps for this reason, it is not Luc, the adored, who holds the reader's attention so much as Edward the helplessly, even comically, enchanted.

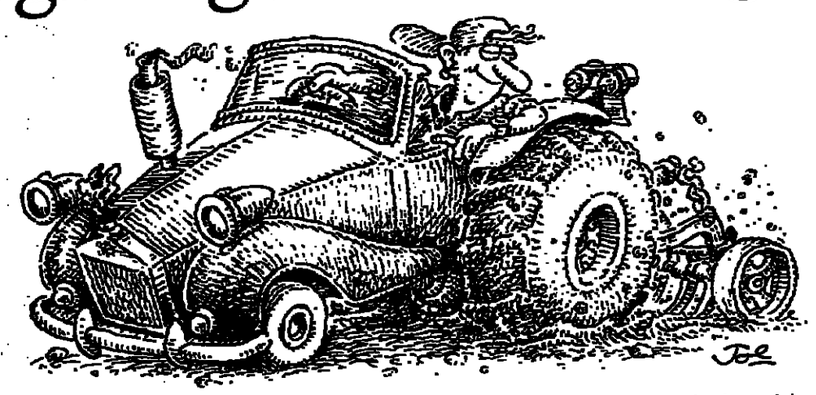
■ THE SPIRIT OF CRICKET
Edited by Christopher Martin-Jenkins
Faber, £7.99
The editor's name gives authority to this "personal anthology". While there is no shortage of cricket compilations this is certainly the best of the recent crop. It not only has great cricketers who can write — Don Bradman, Mike Brearley, Richie Benaud — but also famous writers who know about cricket. The humour of Stephen Fry and John Cleese punctuates the more serious reflections of Neville Cardus and Scyld Berry. This is cricket — from legends of the first match at Hambledon to autumn shadows on the pitch after the season's last game.

● *Contributors: Lucy Lethbridge, Hazel Leslie, Alison Burns, Giles Coren*

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Ploughing with the big boys



FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

It may have taken longer than is usual for a boy to attain his manhood, but this week I have been celebrating *my* coming of age. At long last, I can raise my head high among my fellow farmers and declare myself a man, a real man; a man who has finally turned his land and made it submit to his will.

Although geologists may think differently, there are only two types of soil in Britain. There is "boy's land" and there is the other sort — which is never actually referred to as "man's land" but that is what they mean. Boy's land is the easy stuff to handle; it is usually sandy and light, free-draining and quick to dry after heavy rain. It may not be as fertile as some soils, but it can be easily worked. It is so forgiving that it can be worked by an ignorant boy.

The other type of soil is not so yielding or co-operative. We have plenty of this heavy, clay land hereabouts and over the centuries it has reduced farmers to tears. It has either made men of them, or left them broken and ruined. Learning to farm this heavy land is the hardest of schools, but the rewards are great, for there is huge fertility locked within it. When wet, it is unworkable. It sits like molten brick, ready to swallow any tractor wheel or horse's hoof that dares to cross it. It will absorb the winter rains to such a depth that even a week's dry weather in the spring will conceal a soggy mass of soil beneath the surface. But when the dry weather does eventually arrive and the land starts to dry out, your problems are far from over, for it will then bake itself into impenetrable clods that will only yield to the mightiest machinery. "Steely" is how our old horseman, Derek, describes it. It is the sort of soil which is either sticking to your boots, daring you to take one pace more; or when dry, making a stroll across the field as uncomfortable as a walk through brick rubble on a building site.

But somewhere between these two states, there comes a time when the land is fit to work. The secret of success lies in knowing exactly when that time has come. I thought my time was right last week, but I was not certain about this.

I mentioned this to Mr Sheldrick, a distinguished iron-monger in our local market town who usefully stocks spares for oil-lamps and, until recently, was a reliable source of rings for pigs' noses. Now he is a fund of tales from his Cambridgeshire boy-hood. He remembered the story of the boy who, early one spring, was driving a tractor across a field attempting to make a seedbed. He was not getting very far. It was heavy land, certainly not boy's land, and he was not making a man's job of it. Suddenly, a gentleman in a Rolls-Royce drew up alongside the field. The boy did not know the man and was surprised when the chap got out of the car and ordered him. "Get off that tractor now and don't get back on it till I give you a ring!" Astonished, the boy went home. How this was explained to the farmer is unclear, but ten days later there was a phone call. It was from the man in the Rolls-Royce: "You can get back on that tractor now." The boy did, and a perfect seedbed ensued. The moral? Farmers who can afford big motor cars know a thing or two about working strong land, and any boy that aspires to earn such wealth would do well to take notice of their advice. As long, obviously, as you check first that they really are farmers, not just chaps from Barings taking a long weekend in their country cottages.

But I had no limousine drawing up alongside my field. I only had the feel of the land beneath my boot leather, and an eye which noticed how the lumps of ploughed land crumbled into a fine tilth as I kicked them. It is usually a mistake to do this, but I consulted local opinion. There was a sharp intake of breath from some who said the land was far too wet underneath and the "hosses will up t' their tocks in mud". Others thought the weather was fair and I should not hesitate another minute. This conflict of opinion is not a new phenomenon: I was once standing by an old plough that was about to be auctioned and asked four old-timers who were standing nearby whether they thought it was more suited for light land or heavy? With one voice, two shouted heavy and two shouted light.

So, in the end, I decided to try it and spent a morning with a pair of horses drawing spiked harrows across the field, enjoying the sight of sinister clods being reduced to dust by the timeliness of my operation. With every yard that we plodded, I felt more and more of a man.

Now the field is sown with spring oats and vetches which will grow together into a luscious mixture which we shall cut and make into hay. I did it! For almost the first time in the history of this column, I got something right! Please believe me, even though it is All Fool's Day, I really did it.

Welcome to an alternative Utopia

CHRIS LOUFTE



Engineer Paul Allen in the wind pavilion at the Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth, Powys. "Our purpose is to propagate ideas"

Twenty years after it was first conceived, a centre in Wales that searches for practical solutions to the world's environmental problems is still going strong

I have seen the future and it works. Particularly if the sun is shining on the mid-Wales countryside or the wind is in the right direction. To be fair, the Centre for Alternative Technology, near Machynlleth in Powys, does not rely solely on wind and solar power or even pretend to be self-sufficient. "Our purpose is to propagate ideas," says Paul Allen, a member of the centre's permanent staff, who first visited the centre as a teenager in 1977.

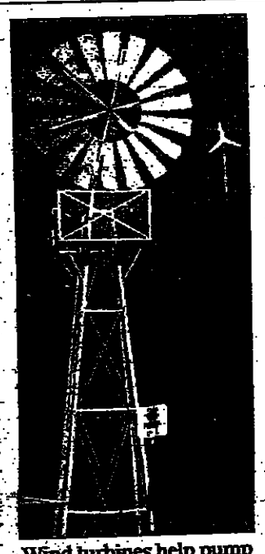
As a qualified electronics engineer, Mr Allen could command a rewarding salary in industry, but he chooses instead to work for the flat-rate of £10,700 received by all his 30 colleagues — from the director to the latest recruit. "People have taken considerable cuts in salary moving here," Mr Allen says.

It is 20 years since this popular tourist attraction opened its doors to the public, and celebrations begin next Saturday on the seven-acre site located in a former slate mine overlooking the beautiful Dulas valley. Set up to demonstrate practical solutions to many of the world's environmental problems, the centre has established a reputation over the past two decades as Europe's leading eco-centre.

Among the many new exhibits inaugurated for this anniversary year is "The Underworld", where visitors are invited to "shrink the kids" for a worm's-eye view of life in the soil. Inside a tunnel, roots and tendrils emerge from the walls and the snuffles of small animals can be heard overhead. "The idea we want to get across to people is that earth isn't just dirt to be washed off, but a living structure," Mr Allen says.

Gerard Morgan-Grenville, who first conceived the idea of the centre, is, on the face of it, an unlikely Utopian. An old Etonian and former Guards officer, he found that some of the early recruits to the centre believed it should be preparing for life after the revolution. But as the prospects of revolution vanished, so did they.

Mr Morgan-Grenville had become convinced that countries in the West needed to pioneer a viable way of life that did not destroy the earth's finite resources. He was determined to set up a project which could demonstrate alternative ways of life that would not damage the planet.



Wind turbines help pump water or generate power

Despite the recent introduction of such innovations as a visitors' shop and an Egon Ronay-recommended wholefood vegetarian restaurant, it is remarkable how little the present reality varies from that original dream. The centre, which also carries out research and consultative work for many big businesses, remains a workers' co-operative and all decisions are made by consensus.

Today's visitors might suppose that, give or take the obvious scientific displays and the odd building or two, the site is much as the pioneers found it more than 20 years ago. Nothing could be further from the truth. Even the soil for the organic gardens had to be imported and the lake at the entrance was excavated from the slate quarry floor.

The 100,000 visitors who arrive at the centre each year find themselves in the grip of alternative technology from the moment they buy their tickets. A water-balanced railway transports them, almost vertically, up the side of the 200ft cliff from the car park to the main site. The two carriages, connected by cable, exchange places by alternately taking on or disgorging tankloads of water.

Although the centre is not wholly self-sufficient, it does produce all its own electricity, provides its own water supply and treats its sewage. Visitors are invited to make contributions to a "urine bank". The contents are then used to activate compost heaps. Compost's practical effectiveness is demonstrated in the nearby gardens, where sickly cabbages grown in untreated soil languish in the shadow of super specimens treated with regular applications.

In a sense, Mr Morgan-Grenville and his original pioneers handicapped themselves by locating their Utopia in a spot where, for long stretches of the year, the sun never appears.

Visitors invited at one display to immerse their hands in water heated by solar panels may sympathise with residents obliged to endure tepid baths in the name of ecological correctness. But, as Mr Allen points out, water that is already tepid costs less to heat to bath temperature. "If a large number of people in the country use less electricity in this way, that represents a considerable saving."

What mid-Wales lacks in sunshine, it more than compensates for with an annual rainfall of about two metres. Not surprising, then, water power accounts for 55 per cent of the electricity generated at the centre. A couple of generators provide an output of 8kW, which is more than the centre needs and, in the autumn, there are plans to export power to the National Grid.

Cynics who doubt the reliability of power produced by alternative technologies might be surprised to learn that, during a heavy snowfall last month, the centre maintained its electricity supply throughout while the surrounding valley, supplied by the National Grid, languished in darkness.

In addition to running residential courses for adults and children in a variety of subjects — from bird-watching to blacksmithing — the centre is spreading its green gospel in a number of overseas locations. Projects similar to the Welsh one are being set up at Grenoble in France and near Dublin in Ireland. Dulas Engineering, the centre's successful commercial spin-off responsible for the first wind farm in Wales, has recently opened an office in Africa.

Back in 1985, Guy Watson, one of the centre's engineers, volunteered to go to the war zone in Eritrea to provide humanitarian aid. He found there was a dire shortage of refrigerators for storing much-needed vaccines and blood. Using an old ammunition crate, Mr Watson created a solar-powered fridge — a dramatic example of beating swords into ploughshares. Now, with the backing of Oxfam, the centre, via its Dulas offshoot, has established a number of solar-powered hospitals in Africa.

Despite such overseas successes, the proponents of green technology have not been as successful in convincing their own countrymen and women. Which is why the centre's role continues to be vital. "A lot of people come to mid-Wales on their holidays and we have an opportunity to get our message across to them and their families," Mr Allen says.

To convey the message in the kind of terms best understood in a market economy, there is a 50 per cent reduction on the regular entrance charge of £4.50 for visitors who arrive on a bicycle.

ALAN ROAD

● *Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth, Powys SY20 9AZ (01654 702400). The centre is open seven days a week, 10am to 5pm, until the end of October.*

THE TIMES

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Cracking visitor to the pine woods

Feather Report

I SAW a crossbill in a wood of mixed pines, oaks and hornbeams in Hertfordshire one sunny afternoon last week. There was a bird calling with an explosive "sip" note in the treetops, and I had a brief but clear view of it on the top branch of one of the hornbeams. It was a green female crossbill, unmistakable with its stumpy-looking tail and — above all — the crossed mandibles of its stout beak.

It flew off, and then I thought I could hear two of them calling deeper in the wood. If indeed there were two, I wondered if they might have been nesting in the top of one of the pine-trees — but I could not find them again. Certainly, the one I saw must have been feeding on the pine cones, which were opening with loud cracking sounds among the branches.

Crossbills eat almost nothing except conifer seeds, and their astonishing beak is perfectly adapted to their needs. A few years ago I watched a small flock of them on a snowy morning in early spring in Thetford Forest, in Norfolk. There were bright red males as well as green females, and they were cracking open cones in some tall pine trees in a cottage garden.

When they are feeding, crossbills sprawl across the branches like parrots, sidle along them, or even move around the twigs by hanging from their beak, and then break off a cone. Provided the seeds in it are ripe, it does not matter in the least whether it has started to open. The crossbill holds the cone in its strong claws, inserts its beak behind one of the scales and, pushing the lower mandible to one side, forces the crack to open wider. The bird's long tongue then darts out and licks up some of the seeds that were lying behind the scale.



Crossbills feed on fir seeds

Crossbills also feed their young on conifer seeds; and this means they have a nesting pattern quite unlike that of any other bird. The common crossbill, which is the species I saw, and which mainly inhabits the spruce forests of Scandinavia and northern Russia, will start nesting in August, and bring up broods of young all the way through winter, because that is when the seeds of the spruce firs are ripe. Food is more important than temperature to them.

There is also a crossbill native to Britain, the Scottish crossbill, which scarcely stirs from its haunts in what is left of the ancient Caledonian Pine Forest. It has a slightly larger beak than the common crossbill, and is generally regarded as a separate species. Pine seeds ripen later than spruce, so the Scottish birds do not nest in August — but they will start nesting in the snowy woods in January if the seeds are coming along well.

In Scandinavia, after a good year for spruce seeds, the number of common crossbills increases enormously — but a good seed harvest is often followed by a bad one. When that happens, there can be a great irruption of crossbills into more southern countries, including Britain. The last of these was in the late summer of 1990, though there was a smaller invasion in 1994.

In the years immediately following these irruptions, quite a few common crossbills are found nesting here in conifer woods and windbreaks. A small number also breed regularly in East Anglia and in the New Forest. But the birds from the last irruptions have now mostly disappeared. So this year, if I do find a pair breeding in Hertfordshire, I shall count myself lucky!

DERWENT MAY

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ABSOLUTELY fabulous slim stylish blonde 28 who enjoys the nicer things in life, seeks tall intelligent man n/s 28-40 with GSOH in London/Herts area. BMW ensures a reply Photo please. Reply to Box No 5095

ACADEMIC lawyer, 37, seeks professional male 35-45 London based for social life & possible long term-relationship. Photo app Plse Reply Box 4990

ADVANCED level integrity, logic, education, manners, octane in compatibility sought by brunette Anglophile (b 1950's, 5'4") for autonomous bliss. Good looks help. C London. Reply to Box No 5050

AFFECTIONATE attractive Thames Valley blonde 40's vintage seeks cultured n/s man 48+ Please Reply to Box 4984

ALLURING newcomer - sensitive intelligent brunette, 20s, very good looks - fascinated by English style/culture! Would a gentleman (25-40ish) offer guiding hand? Class and thoughtful attitude essential, if affluent - perfect. Plse Reply to Box 5023

A lovely 29yr old female into Blue Note Jazz Portishead fast cars Thai cuisine & BLT's. WLTM slim good looking male Box 4856 photo app Bristol

AN ind lady civ spiritual enjoys country pursuits arts music 50's model ✓ fit WLTM compatible n/s male aged 50-mid 60's with young outlook Times crossword? Kent Box 5129

AN intelligent, discerning, slim, attractive, female, seeks an unattached, funny romantic male (48-55) to share laughter, cuddles and lots of TLC. Photo/Phone appreciated Please Reply to Box No 4970

A pretty physio.48 slim 5'6" warm tactile fun n/s seeks slim sensitive arts loving male 48-58 S.Herts/Lond Photo Box 4241

ARE you a man aged 47-57 who has everything except the love of a good woman? I am mid forties, fair hair professional, easy going with varied interests. Box No 5012

ARE you a man aged 47-57 who has everything except the love of a good woman? I am mid forties, fair hair, professional, easy going with varied interests Plse Rply Box 5033

AS Mr Wilde said, "Ideals are dangerous. Realities are better" Attractive, spontaneous and stylish London based divorcee (gainfully, if exhaustingly employed) seeks tall, 50+, ex public school businessman genuinely wanting to adapt present lifestyle to include that special loving friendship, which, if we're lucky could develop into a committed relationship Interests, Italy, art, theatre/opera, reading gardens and country life Recent photo please Box 4619

ATTENTION GENTS 2 tickets left for unattached professional men 45-55 yrs for Greece Singles executive holiday leaving Friday 14th April returning April 22nd Further enquiries telephone Yvette 071 629 3185

ATTRACTIVE, tall, slim blonde 39, but look 30 and feel about 25. Successful career but missing sensitive soulmate to hold my hand at the movies, share Champagne and Chinese takeaways, and get grumpy over a game of Monopoly with me and my son. I will make you laugh, love you quite a lot and hold you when you're sad - if you'll reciprocate. London/Essex Photo app Box 4802

ATTRACTIVE lady in 60's WLTM gentleman in 60's for companionship etc Surrey based. Fun loving. Box 4762

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ATTRACTIVE Anglo/Spanish woman, 34 n/s g.s.o.h. musician with international background. Intelligent intellectual, deeply aware compassionate, kind sincere, and generous. W.L.T.M. interesting well educated tall dark handsome man under 40 with international background and experience of life abroad to share passions, conversations, observations. Photo app Plse Rply Box 4980

ATTRACTIVE, slim, prof female: intelligent with GSOH, stylish, sociable, sporty, warm and fun-loving. WLTM attractive, solid, successful male 36+ with GSOH and a genuine desire to share fun, friendship and T.L.C. London to Midlands. Please Reply to Box No 5100

ATTRACTIVE City Director (33) confident yet warm and sensitive with a sense of humour seeks a dynamic soulmate (30-39) for mutual support and fun enjoying the good things in life. Complete discretion assured. Box 4750

ATTRACTIVE, professional lady 37 who is generous and romantic seeks nice man 38-47 Hampshire or Dorset area ideally to have fun and share things with Photo appreciated Please Reply to Box No 4774

ATTRACTIVE, sensual, romantic, slim, educated (65) W/Sussex/Hants lady WLTM gentleman of integrity and intelligence for caring/sharing relationship Plse rply Box 4742

ATTRACTIVE professional lady slim 34yrs old WLTM Professional gentleman aged 34-40yrs N/S North West Area Photo please to Box 4798

ATTRACTIVE slim well educated fit female 42 n/s seeks a male 35-45 over 5'10" with similar attributes. E Dorset Photo please Box No 4934

ATTRACTIVE alive woman seeks educated alive man age 48-59 Plse Reply Box 4981

A very female, female, Attractive honey blonde, 46, warm, sincere. Enjoys the arts, golf, countryside, travel. Seeks successful gentleman 50-60's for caring and sharing. London/ Home Counties or Hants/ Dorset Reply to Box No 4831

BEETHOVEN'S better shared Attractive(?) Essex lady, 48, seeks congenial male for concerts etc Ltr & pho pl Bx 4794

BERKS based romantic seeks tall n/s man 27-32 to share enjoyment of theatre music travel etc Photo please. Reply to Box No 4922

BLONDE very pretty barrister slim "warm" and sexy. Wide interests. London based. WLTM successful cosmopolitan intelligent male aged 40-50 Must be good kisser! Please Reply to Box No 4653

BRAINS & BEAUTY? Me, too! Warm, witty, vibrant, sensual, petite, blonde, young 40, creative, prof. Seeks fit, attractive,humorous,sexy, prof, thinking man 35-50 for keeps. London.Photo plse.Box 5064

BRAINY, zany individualist, N/S (w opera tickets) sought by pretty, Rubenesque lady 47 Bags of personality. Poor but proud. London. Box No 5147

CARDIFF: graduate 53 years old, positive, witty, slim, active, 5'6, dark haired seeks warm hearted, articulate gentleman for friendship/romance Please reply to Box No 5141

CARING romantic feminine lady, attractive, slim, 41yrs, tactile, single, comfortable and outgoing WLTM tall, sincere professional man sharing warmth, humour, countryside, homeliness, music and the pleasures of life Surrey/Berks/Bucks. Please Reply to Box No 5034

CARING, intelligent and attractive, woman in her late 20s is seeking soul-mate for sincere, loving relationship and enjoy life with. Not looking for Mr.- Perfect, just a genuine, honest guy Please reply with photo to Box No 4894

CATHOLIC, Separated, slim, 54, Irish-Hungarian dog/opera lover wishes to meet warmhearted, good cook, music lover near own home South East London. Box No 4800

CHESHIRE Cat seeks Mad Hatter for tea-parties & lots more. Me - 42, optimistic, fit, lover of the good things in life. You - 40's, intelligent, tall, caring with a sense of humour Box No 4901

CLASSIC FM listener seeks her very own special romance. Soft-centred professional Recently escaped from pointless liaison. Interested in arts, photography, travel. WLTM Educ, prof 50-65, Tall, Solvent, optimistic, unattached non-Oxbridge. Intellect more important than looks. SE based interesting letter please ALA Please Reply to Box No 4979

CREATIVE, successful, female retailer, 39, into good films, live music, travel, country weekends, Marlboro lights, dining and lots of wining. Very slim, petite, dark, attractive. Divorced No kids Owns business and lovely stylish flat. Missing like-minded male (35-50) To share hugs, Tesco clubcard and Swedish meatballs at Ikea. Good catch! London/Home Counties Please Reply to Box No 5074

CUTE cheerful capable Capricorn lady, slim attractive young 39, seeks tactile trustworthy terrific Taurus man to love forever Please Reply to Box No 4771

DESIRABLE Surrey lady very feminine blue-eyed glamourous blonde wearing stockings/heels or wellies, seeks youthful dynamic tall attractive upmarket stylish kind and caring n/s gentleman 46-54yrs. You should be able to compliment me, make my eyes sparkle, have a zest for life and a good sense of fun. Photo please to Box No 495[illegible]

DOCTORS divorcee, very attractive, young 50 cultured, elegant, no ties 5'7", slim, n/s, professional, GSOH, own house. Seeks gentleman up to 67, for happy future - Berks, Hants, Wilts, anywhere. Please Reply to Box No 4599

DOCTORS! dashing (literally) tall, thirties in deed of a boost, sense of humour is the only remedy! Im not eating apples" Plse reply to Box No 4769

DRINKS & CANAPES - private house in Barnes Why invite strangers? because most of us were before we met. Who are we? - young and attractive, in corporate prof business, living in/near town. Girls 30's, guys to early 40's. Masses of girls I'd like to hear from positive, likeable men who identify with us and have all their hair. Patricia 0181 392 9009 wkends/eves

ELEGANT Jewish book editor seeks a tall, stylish, sensitive, successful 40-something man interested in the arts & travel, to share and enrich her busy life. Plse write with photo Box 4789

EMBARRASSED alone? Solvent, professional and single? Then bring a (male) friend to meet 2 mid 30s independent, single females Interests travel, sailing, theatre & cinema. W. London Please Reply Box 4952

FAIR lady lives mid Berks 5'3" slim stylish and sociable happy and home loving caring but cautious WLTM fairly local n/s smart gentleman 54-60 to share theatre concerts cinema walks dining quality TV Please Reply to Box No 4754

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EXTREMELY attractive 40's slim warm witty female of Indian origin who is excellent company and enjoys travelling long walks laughter and much more Seeks an intelligent adventurous gentleman for long-term partnership Must be fun-loving honest caring with out-going personality. Photo and phone no essential. Please Reply to Box No 4972

FEMININE, warm & cultured lady, attractive, slim, fit, traveller, love of the Arts, country lifestyle, WLTM prof man, financially secure, 60's fit, n/s, sincere. Photo pl. Hants based. Reply to Box No 4740

FUN special attractive 5'8" bright educated lady looking for caring fit 50ish ex pub sch soulmate interested in either hist. of art, golf or travelling. Please hurry.Box No 5027

GENUINE sincere sweet natured & warm lady 50 n/s ed. P/Sch attractive fair-haired petite GSOH ints incl love of music, antiques & all the usual things. WLTM 50-60yr old young at heart country-loving soft centred gent attractive appearance n/s with no excesses! Sth Glam. /Gwent /Avon Photo app.Box No 5069

GOOD looking, bright, slim, independent, professional lady, in 40's WLTM kind, caring, presentable & interesting man, 5'10" or over, for romance & companionship. I like music, theatre, gardening, eating out & in, country walks Reply with photo please Box No 4900

GORGEOUS ladies (26-50yrs) seek 16 distinguished gentlemen refined, solvent, fun for cocktail party. Photo imperative Surrey.Reply Box No 5067

HOLIDAY companion sought. Mature tall fair attractive lady seeks gentleman with whom to share a happy holiday anywhere anytime mutually agreeable. All own expenses paid. Kent Reply Box No 4908

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IF you are 59-70, within easy reach of S.W. Herts, charming, tallish, positive, sociable, financially secure, please contact responsive, educated, stylish, solvent, charming, attractive lady for mutual delight. Box No 4746

IF you're a 26-36 yrs, attractive, independent man who enjoys life would you like to meet your match? Prof. blonde, good looking female WLTM. Photo plse London/ S.E Box 4963

IMPOSSIBLE woman looking for the impossible man! I'm 34, sporty, ebullient and independent but willing to be tamed by intelligent, fun-loving & caring partner W. London/ Surrey areas Box 4773

INTERESTING, Creative, amusing, thoughtful woman graduate (36) WLTM graduate, professional man (35-45) to share interest in books, film, art, theatre, restaurants. London Please reply with photo to Box No 4796

IS there life after work?! Teacher loves the job but no time for life! WLTM intelligent, caring, n/s, prof. man, 35-50, to share life I'm 40, 5'8", slim, thoughtful; love cinema, ballet, home-making, gardens, history, Oxford, Scotland, Venice, travel. Photo if poss. B'ham/ S.Staffs. Plse Rply Box 4977

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LADY living N.W. London. Young, 60+, 5'7", slim, attractive, n/s, humorous, independent and have most things in life except that special man for lots of mutual TLC Reply with ph no plse Box 4632

LADY, natural style, openess lives border Lincs/Notts, prof career and need to share good lifestyle with caring, successful gent. I'm 47 with energy, unique personality to make you happy. If local, write now with photo/phone no. Box No 4817

LARGE lady 34 seeks adoring man, London. Please Reply to Box No 5047

LAWYER 42, slim, blonde, 5'7" with 18 month baby seeks intelligent NS caring professional 37-45 to add fun & friendship to our lives. GLOS. Plse rply with photo Box 4693

LISA MINELLI lookalike, 34, prof., slim, London based would like to meet amusing, prof., sporty, irreverent hero, 34-44ish Photo app.Box No 4882

LIVELY Scots lass GSOH WLTM n/s 40+ adonis. Home counties. Photo pref Box No 4940

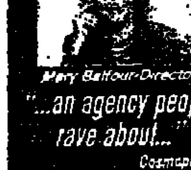
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N.WEST female teacher, attractive, young 42, seeks male companion I am independent, sensitive, perceptive and creative. If you are quick witted, interesting and can laugh at life please write with photo to Box No 4818

ONCE in a lifetime offer (I'm not doing this again!) Slim (36) with children and other interests seeks someone to talk to & care about Photo please Box 4899

PASSIONATE about the country, food, gardening, reading, prefers pubs & friends for supper to loud parties; clothes from Monsoon to power dressing; positive living to time wasting, sharing and giving to selfishness. Professional, 29, Auburn, attractive, slim, getting fit WLTM similar professional 30-40 for sharing fun, commitment & devotion from Cotswolds, N Wilts, Avon. Pls reply with photo to Box 4887

PERSONABLE brunette graduate 63 slim n/s articulate and of warm personality. Fond of the arts, travel, sport, good food and wine Seeks fit cultured prof man of good background and similar interests to share fun, affection and commitment. London/SE. Box No 5098

PETITE attractive optimistic 35yo old lady seeking unattached professional businessman with integrity and humour to share the good things in life. Photo please - will return. Box No 5142

PLUMPTIOUS, comely, blonde lady, 58, nice hair and skin, pleasant and caring, seeks amiable gentleman preferably good-looking with love of life to share joys of retirement if you like daffodils, Labradors, log fires and country houses you might be my ego Box 5106

PRETTY, feminine, 39yo n/s woman, generous and understanding seeks complementary, loyal, romantic man. Can you play Benedict to my Beatrice? Replies with photograph answered. South-east Box No 4968

PROFESSIONAL gentleman knocking on 70 but fit and actively engaged in touring and camping. Rather past entertaining fair sex would like to know if similar old codger - heterosexual - is interested in travels abroad to sample art and culture.Reply to Box No 4560

RAMPANT Rubenesque relict 49 seeks genuinely available good humoured n/s 50-ish friend & playmate who enjoys life music & boats. No low adjustors please Surrey/Berks Border. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5105

SIMPLY everything an attractive, professional, witty, and affectionate man could want! I am 36 slim, attractive with an outgoing personality wishing to compliment and share activities including country pursuits. Genuine replies with photo.Box No 4654

SOPHISTICATED, feminine, beautiful, educated business lady, 35, 5'6", slim and elegant seeks someone to share walks and talks with: n/s, GSOH; kind and intelligent with a refined taste, and a sense of purpose. Just someone nice to be with. Please Reply to Box No 5009

SPECIAL lady 50s, warm, attractive, lively seeks professional male 53-65, solvent, honourable, GSOH who shares interests town/country, current affairs, cinema, arts, music, France & Italy. Companionship - hopeful for compatible/amiable. London/N. Surrey. Please Reply to Box No 4886

STYLISH, smart & attrac. black prof. lady, late 30's seeks tall successful man with integrity and fun to be with (35-49) for friendship/relationship. Photo apprec. Plse reply Box No 4741

SURREY based. Lovely fair lady (47) kind fun classy calm, seeks unatt. gently rugged professional man of integrity, unpretentious amicable fit n/s warm humorous articulate solvent (48-58) Coexist love explore walks travel music arts home life always RSVP photo Please Reply to Box No 5102

TRAVELLED intellectuals stimulate and attract me, especially those in late 40's. I am all these, beautiful figure too. I have led an original life, love repartee and men with well-filled lives. Londoner. Please Reply to Box No 5104

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UNATTACHED mature feminine cultured classy confident light-hearted romantic n/s lady WLTM genuine nice guy /boyfriend 60+ Home counties Reply to Box No 4976

UNPRETENTIOUS Kent divorcee WLTM gentleman 58-68 approx to share laughter, loving - even her cooking! Please Reply to Box No 5103

V. attractive petite blonde 38 warm humorous adventurous intelligent curious woman seeks successful man with similar qualities.London.Box No 4936

VENETIAN-Origin Green-eyed brunette professional feminine stylish cultured slim 5ft 5in 40ish living Northern Italy/London and loving it, challenges 40s/50s witty successful passionate attractive cosmopolitan man to make her believe in love again. Asking a lot? Maybe but then you're quite a man (and she's worth it) Recent photo Please Reply to Box No 4710

WANTED: Very much alive, tall, prof n/s City slicker 38-48. Reward: slim, stylish, fit, funloving, attractive lady. Humour essential, good looks desirable, midlife crisis optional. Herts/London. Photo please. Box No 5116

WARM, attractive, slim City prof early 30s enjoys the arts, travelling, London, country walks WLTM prof/ businessman n/s 36-46 to share her love of life Plse Reply to Box 4889

WASP, Stunning successful loving H.I.V. aids counsellor aged 52 with adult self-supporting family seeks professional caring man in London Please enclose photo and all replies will be responded to Box No 4862

WELL maintained, Professional lady, 2 teenagers, living happily N.E. Scotland, misses male company and seeks older cupid the 2nd time around Box 4946

WESSEX - wanted - Professional (Dr, lawyer etc), interested classical music/Arts, slim with hair/GSOH, n/s 46-64 for similar caring, sensitive & fun lady. P/A. Plse reply Box 4743

WHERE is the good looking n/s, genuine, romantic, 35-42, male who can put the sparkle back in my eyes? Petite, attractive, 37, Caring, sensitive and uncomplicated, living in N/W Yorks. Enjoys countryside, travel, theatre, good company. Looking for a lasting relationship. Photo please. Box 4945

WHERE have all the nice men gone? Slim fair friendly and 40 seeks fun educated man GSOH vital North London/shires. Please Reply to Box No 4687

WIDOW (2yrs) young 66, fit, 5'2", slim, n/s Educated, own home, car, interested classical music, gardening, politics etc. WLTM caring gentleman, similar situation, to share fun, conversation, holidays etc N. Yorks. Please Reply Box 4973

WIDOW, Mid 50's. NS Loves family life. Golf, Bridge, Travel Theatre etc GSOH WLTM someone similar interests in South. Plse Reply Box 4998

WIDOW, kind cultured & attractive. Half a century not out could you bowl this maiden over Box 4897 Photo plse ALA

WILFUL blonde blue-eyed long-leggedy Kraut English born and bred graduate professional (29) seeks tall XV Rodber /Guscott /Underwood amalgam based in London with manners wit style and a reasonable wallet (30-35). Photo preferred. Please Reply to Box No 4878

YOU are in your 40's early 50's successful, with a warm and generous nature, looking to meet the right woman with whom to enjoy life, I am a young 40's attractive, vivacious lady, own house in Surrey. Intelligent, romantic and full of life. Together we can listen to music, go to the theatre, walk in the country, dine by candlelight and have fun. Box 4748

35 YR old attractive woman seeks a professional, dynamic soul mate. 38-45 to share Arts, fun, wine, jazz and even kids! South East/Sussex. Please Reply to Box No 5049

LIPSTICK LESBIAN, Gorgeous, tall with streaked hair. Seeks LL or curious beauty with toothpaste smile. Lets meet for Oysters at LaCaprice. Photo absolutely essential. Please Reply to Box No 5075

GENTLEMEN

A caring pro Mids man 33 WLTM lady 25-45 to share all lifes pleasures! Letter to Box 5110

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quaintly called a Le Bop because of its' charming manner. Starts promptly at 9pm and for the first hour only background music is played....this allows us to introduce you to those present. Also to help you 'break the ice' we issue you with a Dance Card on arrival. Thus via this system.
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Comfortingly, the evening is solely for those from a professional/ managerial/ business background. (Just one of our numerous events throughout South Wales & West Country)

GENTLEMEN

ABLE to make you happy? 50's businessman, seeks attractive lady in 30's/40's for courageous attempt. Home counties based. Please Reply to Box No 5174

A bright kind male (31) handsome 5'8" GSOH and solvent. Loves horses and country life & nights out/in seeks similar minded lady to share TLC. London /Home Counties. ALA. Please Reply to Box No 4526

ACTIVE successful 36 yr old graduate, financial services professional. South London based, sporty to keep fit but passionate for the Arts seeks non-smoking lady friend for London outings, country walks & may be much more Box 4935

ALDERNEY Channel Islands. Good-looking, VGSOH, 5'9", slim, young 47, not rich but comfortable, enjoys diving, golf, tennis, sailing, good wine and entertaining. WLTM attractive, slim lady with personality to share interests and possible long-term relationship on a small beautiful island. Photo please. Reply to Box No 4786

AMERICAN Canadian lady or lady that has travelled and or likes America and Canada sought by tall successful Mediterranean looking 32yo gentleman for friendship - romance or marriage. Children welcome. Relocation possible for the right person. Pack your suitcase for a holiday in the U.S.A.!!! Age & area immaterial. Photo please. Reply to Box No 5101

AMERICAN professional, new to London, 30's, handsome, fit, would like to meet young (23-38) n/s fit woman, who enjoys having fun, outdoors variety. Please Reply to Box No 4990

AMERICAN Psychologist 6' n/s Hampstead Heath, seeks lady, 50's for walks, music, travel, photo helpful. Box No 4753

AMERICAN Man, London, 6-ft writer, 69, Div. seeks lusty lover lady-kind, slim, 34-66. No ties. Photo, phone Box No 5167

AMIABLE, considerate, Gent. GSOH, N/S, varied interests: Living in irretrievable relationship: WLTM lady, 45/55, to share better times, hopefully, ahead. Photo apprec Box 4949

AM looking for someone to change my life. Professional male 34, n/s, seeks female 21-33, for friendship and possible romance. Please Reply to Box No 5108

AN enterprising graduate M.D., tall, slim, attractive, 40's, n/s, completely together and living comfortably in Oxon/Berks area. WLTM an unattached confident lady to share joys of Spring and a few risks too! Reply with recent photo and phone number to Box No 5089

ARE you nearer 42 than 30? Do you prefer holidays in the USA rather than the Third World? Do you look forward rather than back? Do you prefer a Chablis Premiere Cru to a cheap Champagne? Do you prefer a man who runs his own business, despite the risks, rather than one who bows the knee to a PLC? Do you prefer stockings to tights? (A state of mind - not a sexist query!) Are you looking for a Soul-mate rather than a husband? (one does not preclude the other, but should not be a given) If all your replies are yes & you would like to meet a 6'2", strong willed, slightly good looking n/s man who is reviewing his priorities around his half century, send a letter photo & Ph no. Box 4792

ARE you a creative, caring, sincere, positive lady looking for a similar man? I am a successful company director (single, 40) seeking a soulmate and a spiritually rewarding relationship,with mutual enjoyment of sailing, fine wine, good food in quiet restaurants. Plus occasional trips to France, India, & Caribbean. Disguised goddesses welcome. South West. Plse Reply to Box 4908

ARE you Thai or Oriental? Beautiful, slim, marriage minded and looking for Mr Right. I am a 36yr old professional with own home, considered good-looking, slim, GSOH, caring, loyal and romantic, could I be the one? Photo if possible. Please Reply to Box No 5079

ARTISTIC prof man (40's) 5'11" decent looking WLTM unpretentious good looking lady 30's-early 40's. London/S.E. Photo please. Reply to Box No 4782

ATTRACTIVE independent professional man young 50 with varied interests seeks interesting attractive fun-loving n/s female (35-45) to share life's pleasures. Surrey area. Please reply with letter and photo to Box No 4868

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

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Est 1983 ABIA

AT last, this 37 year old, 6'4" company director has realised work has got to take a back seat. Surely it's not too late. My sense of humour, sense of adventure (I love all types of flying, boating & water sports) & desire for affection will no longer be suppressed by the work ethic. All that's missing now is the woman to help me enjoy this new stage in my life. I have a lovely cottage on the edge of a south coast town & it seems so empty right now. So now I need to find her. She will be lively & fun, intelligent - her own person, loving & kind. Happy at a dinner party for twenty or one for just two. she'll be the sort of person who'll think twice about replying to this ad, but will decide, well - what the hell. If that's you, send me a photograph & an address and I promise I'll write back - Romance could be just the start. Box No 4867

ATTRACTIVE 44 6ft n/s Co. Dir. Kent based with varied interests WLTM a genuine slim affectionate attractive lady 34-44 for love and romance. Letter and photo please.Box No 5112

BERKS/Oxon man, 48, n/s, professional, solvent, WLTM mildly eccentric lady 30/45, with SOH, love of countryside, classical music, and travel. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5036

BOX 4379. The advertiser Mature (old, really) man would like to thank all the ladies who kindly replied to his advertisement.

CARING & attractive youthful 44 enjoying benefits of successful professional career. Seeks sincere home/country loving N/S younger attractive lady to share good things in life. Photo app. Scotland Box No 4879

CHESTER based grad, prof. seeks 20-36 single lady of substance! Please Reply to Box No 5151

CONTINENTAL professional WLTM attractive tactile cuddly tallish lady early fifties for fun theatre travel. Photo essential. Please Reply to Box No 5002

COSMOPOLITAN affluent professional with a London base seeks cultured, elegant vivacious, attractive petite blonde. 30-40 to share outings and travel. Reply to Box No 5031

CROSSWORD help needed by keen golfer, hill-walker & opera lover. Attractive, sexy, adventurous, 5'10" Cotswold man, 40, W.L.T.M. slim, unattached n/s lady. 30 - 40 to share interests. Box No 4957

CROYDON Businessman early 50's solvent attractive W.L.T.M. Non-smoking slim attractive lady 30 to 40 to be my lover my Best Friend my Soul Mate. Photo essential. Please reply to Box No 4772

CUDDLY Yorkshire man not thick nor thin good-looking had a rough couple of years now looking for brewery heiress or any attractive lady under 35 with pots of money and country estate like mine! If none of the above then just a GSOH! Photo and details of stash! West Yorkshire area.Reply Box No 4889

DECENT bloke, 39, recently returned to London after three years in the US, now home alone. OK-looking and in surprisingly good nick. Needs permanent distraction from absorbing job. Perfect would be a bright, articulate, creative, sassy, honest twenty/thirty something who is curious about this ad. Likes are music, motorbikes, books, hanging-out and the like. NDTS (not done this before) but you never know. Letter and a photo would be a good start. Pls rply Box 4939

DESIRABLE divorced middle-aged male lecturer seeks very intelligent attractive young woman (25-46) to interrupt or even share creative smokefree solitude (Manchester area). Please Reply to Box No 5139

DOCTOR, widower, 67, 5'8" slim, active, semi-retired, offers companionship, wine and log-fire in book-filled secluded cottage on a high and windy hill in the Hereford/Monmouth area, to slim lady 50-65, graduate or educated, country-lover or gardener, not afraid of solitude or work. Photo ensures reply. Box No 4786

DOCTOR early 40's unattached presentable caring. Ints. include dining travel tennis WLTM younger lady. London/home counties. Photo app. Please Reply to Box No 4871

DO you live in London but prefer your weekends in the Country, do you ride & love all things equestrian especially racing. Do you also love good food and everything in Music from Wagner to Joe Cocker, are you in your thirties & would you like to meet a fit, solvent, 42 year old workaholic who is quite presentable and loves to dance. N/S Pho app. Box 4801

DUBLIN man footloose 40 and fed up. Looking for intelligent beautiful woman for mutual intellectual and other stimulation. You must be witty, open-minded and adventurous - I and A.L.A that enclose a photo.Reply to Box No 5081

EDUCATED presentable fully active and vigorous near-70 n/s, options open, longs to meet attractive under-60 lady (widow or divorcee?) for lasting affectionate companionship. Would re-locate. S.England. Exchange photo plse Box 5107

ELIGIBLE man, 30, seeks special young lady to share life's adventure. Photo appreciated. Birmingham. Box No 4888

ENGLISH gentleman, 48, 5'10", Oxbridge, ex-academic, journalist, diplomat: a bit eccentric but presentable: WLTM lady 30-39, sincerity and gentleness, prized above all else. Possibly wanting a family. Reply to Box No 5084

ENIGMATIC, empathetic, educated, divorced, country professional gentleman 53 seeks refined, independent, solvent, unencumbered lady for romance / companionship & rural pursuits. Photo app. Kent /Sussex /Devon /Somerset borders. Reply to Box No 4963

EVERYTHING but the girls! Successful professional Asian mid 30's cosmopolitan tall fit. Comfortable with myself and also good company. I have a wide variety of cultural and sporting interests. Would you like to meet me? Please Reply to Box No 5005

HAMILTONS CLUB (West Yorkshire) Newly opened, Sauna, Jacuzzi, Massage, Mon-Fri 10-10pm. 0274 743432

EXCEPTIONAL GENTLEMAN
With a realistic approach towards life, based in London and access to materialistic dreams, needs a girlfriend.
Maximum age 28 yrs.
Nationality not important.
Please reply in confidence with a full size recent photograph to Box No 5033
All replies will be answered

FALSE Start has left very kind and nice, tall, quite sexy and ultra intelligent rich and successful young man (33) with half a child to love and be loved by, but no woman. Not to be discouraged WLTM intelligent, kind, sexy, child loving woman to fall in love with. Please Reply to Box No 5068

FARMYARD COCK needs something to crow about. Seeks slim, attractive Hen, any age or breed, with GSOH, with whom to enjoy finer things in life. London/East Anglia. Photo plse. Box No 4997

FRENCH connected lively adaptable nice chap, 47 5'7" smoker, liking travel, drama and much more. Many friends, but seeks happy 'jolie seule-mate' 35+ for mutual joie-de-vivre. London. Photo a must S.T.P. Box 4796

FUN, romance, care and support forever. It's a beautiful thought, it does and can happen. Slim, attractive, intelligent and charismatic lady 30/40s sought by attentive 6' male counterpart and his much shorter dog. Photo app.Box No 5097.Berks

GENTLE confident articulate man. Doctor 29, attractive, extrovert, enjoys arts, culture, countryside WLTM warm, sexy, accomplished woman, same age to share same wavelength. Northants/London. Reply with photo if poss to Box No 5091

GENTLEMAN divorced 46 tall handsome talented affectionate ex-head teacher now enjoying comfortable life of retirement travelling walking & music. Seeks caring n/s lady. Photo app. South-east. Please Reply to Box No 4999

GLOS BASED prof. 34, n/s with GSOH. Interests include outdoor pursuits, conversation and relaxing. Seeks female companion with similar interests. Box No 4993

HANDSOME, sporty, 6', n/s, 41yr old with own business in fashion. Enjoys music, travel, food, interior design, the home and much more. WLTM 28-40yr old, attractive, slim, affectionate, independent, and perhaps sporty lady. London. Photo app.Reply Box No 4846

HANDSOME Gent 32 n/s 5'9" - Lots of interests inc N.T. seeks attractive intelligent slim lady 26-38 for love and romance. Photo and letter guarantee reply.Home counties.Box 5083

HANDSOME hirsute hunk (34) WLTM winsome witty wench 25-42. I am a fit sporty romantic n/s prof. grad. Photo and letter guarantees reply. Midlands Plse Rply to Box 5048

HIGHLY Successful Lancs businessman with looks and style to match seeks sincere, intelligent, beautiful companion, 26 - 38, for lasting relationship. Privileged lifestyle in the fast lane awaits you. Photo and letter Please Reply to Box No 4803.

I AM a tall dark attractive man feeling slightly neglected. Late forties and would like to share my love of sea, sun, travel, sport and all the good things in life with a similarly minded woman. Photo essential. Please Reply to Box No 4986

IF you're looking for the dream you dreamed of, open your eyes. Graduate 30 N/S GSOH ready to take a chance again Please Reply to Box No 4797

IS there anybody out there? Are you 29-33 - devastating in all respects - perfection in motion - then read another advert. No, seriously - I'm none of those things!! - But I bet we could have some fun. GSOH absolutely essential. Photo really appreciated. Box No 4985

IS there a bright slim tolerant eclectic pretty woman wanting to share TLC out there in Surrey or SE? Warm, witty good looking 50ish professional needs you! Photo please to Box No 4992

KIND warm attractive man slim 5'10" Jewish n/p 40 seeks soulmate of any race. Photo please. Box No 4995

LONDON based. Generous and easy-going professional man, seeks charming and feminine lady aged 30-36 for relationship. Like me you will have a well developed sense of the absurd and enjoy good food, conversation, theatre and travel. Letter and photo app.Reply to Box No 4978

LONDON professional 42, medium height & build, varied interests, getting a bit too settled in his own ways. Would like to turn his life upside down for the right, younger, uncomplicated, loving lady. Letter & photo appreciated Plse Rply Box 4931

LONDON based tall 49 year old divorced Oxbridge educated Businessman with easy personality WLTM slim sincere passionate English or Oriental lady 30/40 for future Box 5111

MAN of robust masculinity and masterful spirit 40's n/s solvent. Enjoys sport cooking DIY French hols seeks gorgeous lively lady with GSOH to share life and fun. Please write to Box No 4973. Essex/Cambs/Herts.

MIDLANDS, intelligent, good looking, great fun, 33, 6ft 2in, own business, seeks very attractive stylish 22-30 lady for TLC & romance. Photo if poss. Please Reply to Box No 5084

1963 model, bit worn at edges, bodywork in need of attention, smokes a bit, but runs well on Claret. WLTM lady 28-35 in the London/South East area interested in art, history, opera, travel, literature, scuba-diving, fast cars and photography! Box No 4996

MOUNTAINS, Mozart and Monet. Are you interested? If you are adventurous, cultured, sporty and in your 30's and want to lead an interesting life with the right man I'd like to meet you. I am 44, professional, single, fit, said to be attractive and live in the Midlands. Reply with photograph to Box No 5006

NEW FOREST based professional man 36, tall slim fit & secure, seeks caring sincere attractive lady 25-38 for long term relationship. Please Reply to Box No 4994

NORTH-WEST. Are there no single attractive females in the North? Male, early 40's, 6' and in good shape. I am successful, considered attractive, secure with a professional career - in fact with everything except the girl! Recently divorced and a bit old for discos. Seeks classy female aged 30-40: must be intelligent and attractive. I believe looks are important. Photo ess plse.Box No 5065

NORTH England. Caring professional Engineer late 50's widower 6'2" seeks slim attractive funloving lady to love & cherish who enjoys wandering in the countryside, boats, winter holidays in the sun, dining, dancing, coffee and cuddles with Sunday papers photograph please. Box 4944

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

NORTH, Solvent tall professional semi-fogey nearing 60 seeks younger lady for marriage, children & quiet style in Ascot, travel & home life. Burnt Lloyds name perhaps. Tel. number & photo sensible. All answered Please Reply to Box No 5046

NOTTINGHAM Dr with no patients & 48 years experience craves Britt Ekland look-a-like or similar.Reply Box No 4918

OUTSTANDING Male, late 30's, good looking and successful Company Director and Mensan. Fit and healthy, likes horse riding, fast driving, skiing, cinema, theatre, concerts, travel etc WLTM equally outstanding young female 25-35 to enjoy life's pleasures long term. Midlands. Photo & letter to Box No 5082

PETER PAN now unacceptably 60 seeks trendy Wendy for formation flight. 40-52 attractive complex free, cultured calm, bringing warmth and glamour to sea coast walks, sailing, socialising, films, food, wine, travel. Offspring acceptable. Cent S. Coast. Letter/photo please to Box No 5056

PLANNING AHEAD! Retired Solicitor, widower aged 63, in fair health, wishes next year to spend winter months (Jan to March) in warmer climate (? Algarve) but not alone! Now wishes to meet lady in 50s/early 60s who would like to join him. She should be lively, have happy and placid disposition and enjoy good food and a drink for 2!. I live in SE London/Kent and would like us to get to know each other before planned winter holiday - which hopefully could lead to a long term relationship. Please send details of yourself and current photo to Box No 4987

PROFESSIONAL Gent, tall, fit-ties, public school, interests include travel, music, outdoor sports. seeks lady similar. Please Reply to Box No 4666

PROFESSIONAL, slim, 6', n/s male 42 WLTM female who likes the arts, log fires, dogs and scrabble. Oxon. Please Reply to Box No 4929

SINGLE farmer/businessman 34 shy slim sensitive n/s seeks caring feminine lady 27+ for long term relationship. Norfolk/E. Anglia Box 4798

SLIMLINE Brighton-based male journalist, 40, seeks bright, witty, stylish female - doctor, lawyer etc. Cinema, countryside, opera. Photo please to Box No 5087

SOULMATE prof man, cultured, caring, loyal, sincere, n/s, GSOH, interested in classical music, travel, decorative and fine arts, theatre, photography, bridge, good food/wine, seeks lively, attractive lady of quality (48+) to share life, love and the pursuit of happiness. London /S.E. pref. Photo app. Please Reply to Box No 4835

SPEND all or part of this summer in the South of France. English gentleman, very presentable, stylish, cultured now single, late forties offers small but exquisite villa in the hills near Grasse, to elegant, feminine, sophisticated lady who has time on her hands to enjoy all the simple pleasures in life except smoking. Magnificent views, grounds, vast pool available from June. This is a genuine invitation to bona fide respondents only with recent photo please and telephone contact. All replies answered and photos returned. Reply to Box No 4532

SPORTY and cultured executive from Scandinavia (30's). Likes travelling, outdoor life, music and dinners. Looks for natural, straight forward and humorous 25-35 lady for friendship and who knows. Photo. E.Anglia. Please Reply to Box No 4988

SPRING is spring. Co. Dir. (45 n/s WASP) visiting Southwest regularly seeks friendly lady or couple for convivial evenings. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5057

STOP look no further prof man 5'11" 54 seeks attractive articulate creative woman under 50. Enjoys the Arts travel sport fun. S. London. Surrey Please Reply to Box No 4799

SUCCESSFUL business gentleman early [illegible] unattached good-looking [illegible] eyes 6'1" tall slim and romantic. WLTM attractive lady slim and over 5'6" between 28-40 who would like to be wined and dined and take overseas holidays. North-west. Please send a photo and tel no if poss. to Box No 4851

SURREY based retired professional 6'1, slim, good looking WLTM active lady 50's, n/s who loves tennis, walking and travel. Able to relax by a log fire, play bridge and enjoy entertaining. Photo please & tel no. to Box No 5070

TALL handsome white professional, loyal, considerate, GSOH seeks small shapely beauty black or white. 28-38 for romance, marriage, children. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5082

TECHNICALLY 51 but amazingly well preserved, romantic witty Englishman good-looking and occasionally wealthy but above all modest! Photo appreciated. London. Please Reply to Box No 4924

UNIQUE 44yrs young successful professional gent well-travelled and educated. WLTM lady 30-44 uncomplicated with nice personality. I have no ties but accept that you have. Cheshire /Manchester area.Photo app. Please Reply to Box No 4861

WORLD CUP RUGBY South Africa the last 2wks. Lady n/s wishing to join 55yo unattached man. .Write with photo about yourself to Box No 5011

YOUNG 40ish solvent professionally qualified opthalmic optician with own practice. Likes dining out, TV, movies, the odd holiday, and messing about. Loves fast cars, but would like "not a loose woman" between the ages of 30-37. My aim is to make your dreams come true. If you are pretty and sincere and a one man woman, then write to me enclosing a photograph and tel. no.Mids/Worcs.Box No 5072

GENTLEMAN 70+ healthy active affectionate seeks similar gentleman 65ish living alone under 20 miles Cambridge to visit. hope close mutual friendship. Box No 4989

RET Country Gentleman 70 grad seeks male companion 70-85 for caring relationship, many interests. S/W based but visits London regularly. Winter hols in the sun. Summer, Europe mainly Germany will travel to meet the right person. Box 5050

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

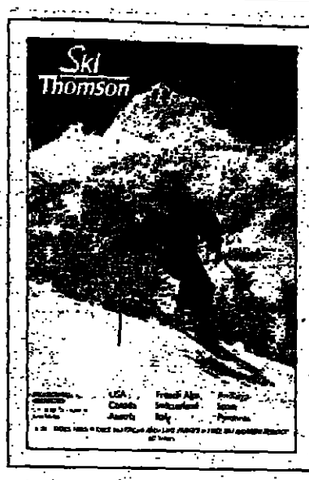
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SKIING: **Doug Sager** on the fight for next year's customers, and this year's late-season resorts and bargains



Brochure battle starts for next season

EVEN as the 1995 ski season is being extended by exceptional snowfalls, so tour operators are battling to win bookings for next winter.

First off the mark was Crystal, the market leader in Britain for ski holidays. It launched a preview brochure last month and has been accepting 1996 bookings since March 18. Rival operator Thomson released its 1996 brochure last Thursday, and has re-entered the North American market after a year's break. It has also added further resorts in Europe.

Competition is hotting up as the skiing market shrinks — down about 5 per cent to an estimated 350,000 holidays sold by travel agents this year. Those skiers who remain in the market are as exigent as they are enthusiastic. The success of a number of British specialist operators proves that the market can still be profitable, if less so for the high-volume firms.

Crystal's marketing manager, Andy Perrin, denies that present uncertainty in the currency markets will affect skiers who are determined to book choice chalets in the peak Christmas and half-term weeks. Mr Perrin hopes to sell 15 per cent of next winter's holidays from his preview brochure.

Crystal's brochure targets developing trends in the ski market. For the first time, all charter flights will be completely non-smoking. Families with children aged six to 12 will be catered for in a new "Whizz Kids" club. The number of flights to North America has been increased.

Crystal will overcome the poor choice of direct flights from British airports to Denver by scheduling free flights from 19 regional airports in Britain to Amsterdam, to connect with direct flights to Denver with MartinAir.

Thomson is making an aggressive comeback. Its new brochure features 69 resorts, compared to Crystal's 90. For the first time, Thomson offers chalets in Courchevel.

The reopening of Thomson's North American programme features Jasper, Whistler and Banff in Canada, as well as favourites Breckenridge, Vail and Beaver Creek in America. Thomson is the first leading operator to go to the Colorado family resort of Winter Park.

Price wise, Thomson looks like giving Crystal a run for its money. The chalets in Courchevel 1850, for example, are particularly attractive. Tignes and Chamonix in France are again included in the Thomson itinerary. New, dedicated snowboard weeks, ski-touring weeks and clinics for both advanced and intermediate skiers are all pre-bookable at guaranteed sterling prices.



JESS STOCK/TONY STONE

The powder and the glory

The skiing this Easter will be even better than at any Christmas in the past decade. Across the Alps and in America skiers are enjoying a winter which started badly, but piled up the snow so heavily over the past three months that a good two dozen resorts, most of them in France, will stay open into May.

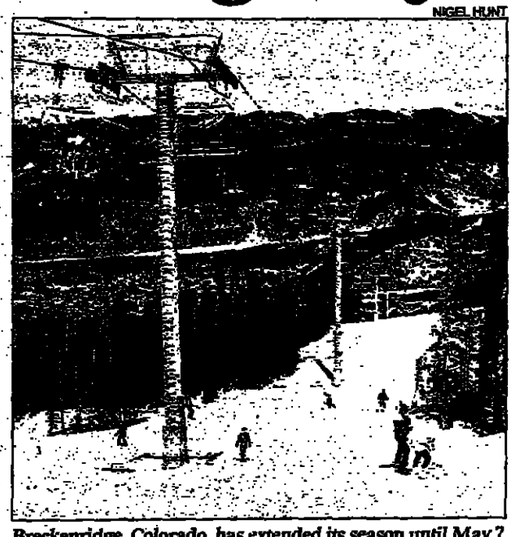
Package deals peter out at the end of April, leaving end-of-season skiers little option but to make their own way. Those who do will find substantial bargains on hotels and self-catering flats, and the absence of lift queues.

As a special treat, nature conspires to re-form the snowpack at this time of year to produce a surface which is sensuous and astonishingly easy to ski.

The phenomenon of spring snow is seldom experienced by holiday skiers. Only when long spring days of hot sun coincide with cold, cloudless nights does this transformation of particles occur. The winter snowpack consists of discriminate layers of visibly different pellets and flakes. Spring sunshine melts and re-forms these as a homogeneous entity, which erases all ruts and irregularities on the surface. Skiing on spring snow, at the right time of day, is to feel the skis glide and turn effortlessly, as friction is inversely translated into the coefficient of fun.

April and May are the months for ski touring from hut to hut along 3,000m summits and over glacier terrain. The most famous tour is the Haute Route from Chamonix to Zermatt, pioneered by Britons. The Bernese Oberland in Switzerland and the Otztal and Stubai regions of Austria also offer splendid ski-trekking routes.

NIGEL HUNT

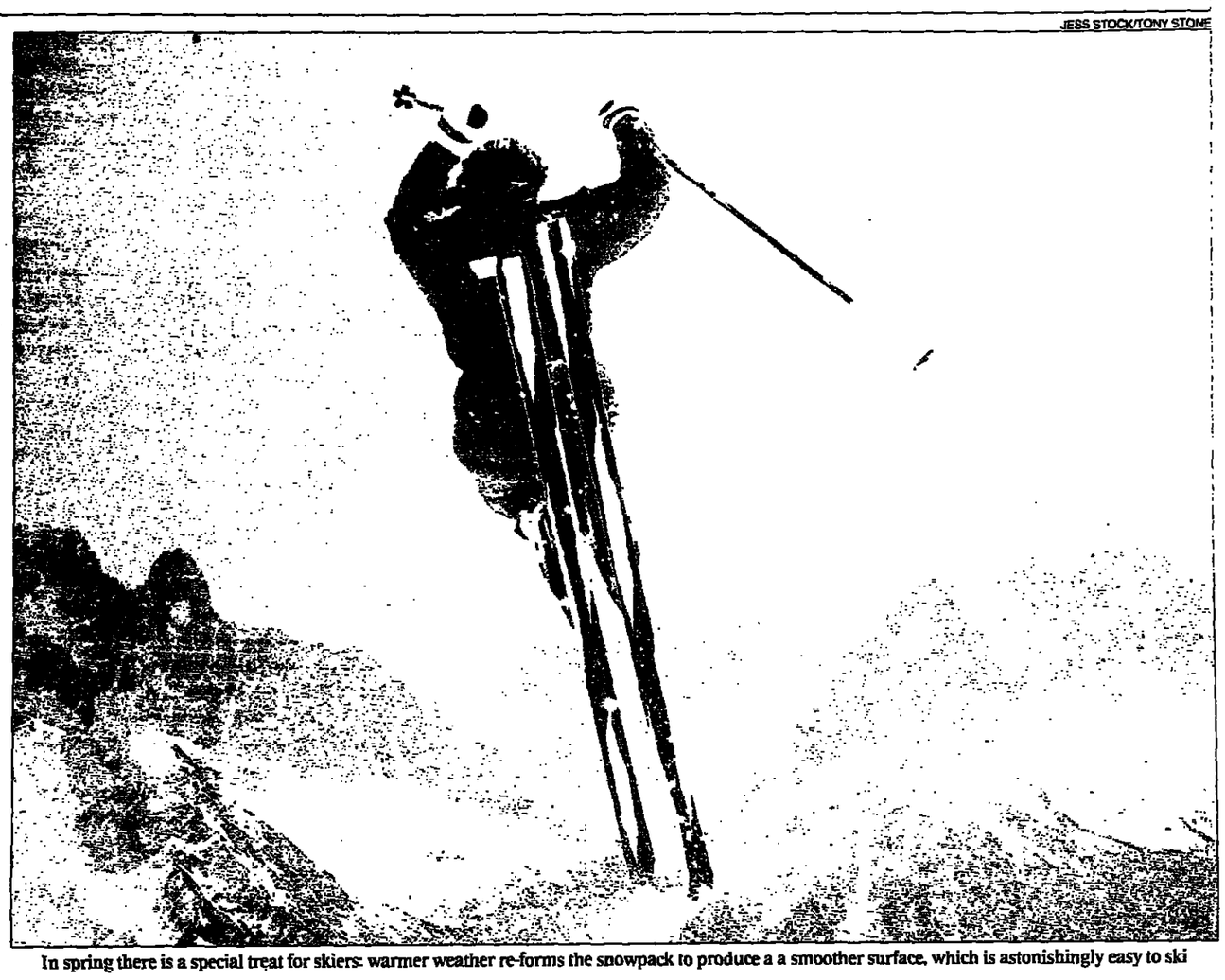


Breckenridge, Colorado, has extended its season until May 7

Intermediate skiers, accompanied by a mountain guide, need not feel left out of *sérac* and crevasse scenery. Any solid piste skier can negotiate the 20km itinerary of the Vallée Blanche in Chamonix, which is at its peak in April. Thanks to the exceptional snow, it is possible to ski down into Chamonix from the Aiguille du Midi (about 3,800m).

Ordinary piste skiing on groomed slopes, on and below the glaciers, is on offer later and at more resorts this year.

Whether because of global warming or whatever, the ski season is shifting towards the spring, with consistently better conditions over the past dozen seasons.



JESS STOCK/TONY STONE

In spring there is a special treat for skiers: warmer weather re-forms the snowpack to produce a a smoother surface, which is astonishingly easy to ski

WHERE YOU CAN SKI INTO MAY — AND BEYOND

☐ FRANCE has far and away the most resorts for end-of-season skiing. Tignes, Val d'Isère, Val Thorens, Châtel in the Portes du Soleil and Chamonix will all be running lifts until May 8. Les Arcs will close one day earlier.

☐ Ten other French resorts will not close until May 1. They include the Trois Vallée stations of Méribel, Les Menuires and Courchevel, and the southern resorts of Les Deux Alpes and Alpe d'Huez, and La Plagne, Flaine, Risoul, Serre-Chevalier and Valloire.

☐ AUSTRIA's lower elevations force earlier closings. But Obergurgl, Ischgl, Zürs, Obertauern and St Anton all estimate that skiing will continue until early in May. Glacier runs later in the summer at another six areas.

☐ SWITZERLAND, surprisingly, closes up its runs even earlier than Austria, and loses out heavily in the die-hard ski market to France. Verbier proves its commitment to serious skiing by staying open until May 7, a week longer than Zerman, Saas Fee and Davos, all of which close at the end of April.

☐ ITALY: Cervinia, on the Italian side of the Matterhorn and linked to Zermatt by cable car, is open until May 15. Tucked away in the Dolomites, Val Senales is the only other Italian resort open in May (until May 2).

☐ CANADA: the Whistler and Blackcomb mountains have extended their winter seasons until May 22 — after which the skiers can look forward to the glacier summer season, which will be inaugurated on June 17.

☐ AMERICA: anyone whose ski legs can hold out long enough will find good skiing in Mammoth, California, until July 4.

☐ Breckenridge, in the Rockies, will close on May 7.

☐ Killington, on America's east coast, hopes to be open until June 2.

TOUR OPERATORS' OFFERS

ALL offers listed here include return flights and transfers; prices based on double room occupancy.

Alpine Answers (0181-871 5100) is an independent ski consultant service open all year which will book summer skiing or glacier clinics in Tignes and Kaprun, and more exotic adventures to South America. Susi Johnston, of Alpine Answers, says the company is already making reservations for next winter, and urges early booking to find the best chalets for Christmas and half-term. The final offers for this season are:

Breckenridge, Colorado: final departure April 19, staying at the Beaver Run hotel. £689 for first seven nights, excluding meals. Season extended to May 7.

Whistler, Canada: April 16-23 in the Château Whistler, £675, excluding meals.

Val d'Isère: half-board chalet accommodation April 23-30, £299.

Tignes: half-board chalet accommodation April 23-30, £343.

Ski Solutions (0171-602 9900) also has a list of late-ski resorts:

Vail, Colorado: final week, April 15-22, in an American Skiworld chalet, half-board, £599.

Lake Tahoe, California and Nevada: the resorts of Squaw Valley and Heavenly, April 7-14, with Virgin Atlantic at the Viking Lodge, £359, excluding meals.

Mammoth, California: the best snow in North America. Throughout April at the Jagerhof hotel, no meals but car hire from Reno included, £519.

Courchevel: reductions from luxury chalet operators Ski Scott Dunn for the final week, April 22-29, half-board from £425.

Chamonix specialists Collineige (01276 24262) is also year-round agent for the Compagnie des Guides and can arrange tours of the fabled Vallée Blanche and the Haute Route from Chamonix to Zermatt, as well as chalet accommodation throughout the summer. Final scheduled departure is May 8, with half-board weekends from £369 and weeks from £395.

The Ski Company (0181-305 2299) offers discounts of up to £2,000 on full booking of its chalets in Klosters and the Portes du Soleil in Easter week.

Thomson (0171-707 9000) offers a ski-drive deal to Les Deux Alpes, April 8-15, half-board chalet accommodation for an unbeatable £99.

Crystal (0181-399 5144) has put on an extra flight to Lyons on April 8. Prices for seven nights in a catered chalet in Val Thorens are from £289 per person.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 23

SPIELRAUM
(c) The range of possibilities (originally in probability theory) within which the probability of an outcome or likelihood of a hypothesis is to be assigned. From the German *spiel* play + *raum* room. J. Maynard Keynes, *A Treatise on Probability*, 1921: "Briefly, he [sc. J. von Kries] may be said to hold that the hypotheses for the probabilities of which we wish to obtain a numerical comparison, must refer to 'fields' (Spielräume)."

TAPSELL
(a) Often in full, *a tapsell gate*, a type of churchyard gate peculiar to Sussex, which turns about a central post. Origin uncertain. "Tapsell gates, which turn on a central pivot, are peculiar to Sussex. It has been suggested that they are so called after one Tapsell, a Sussex iron-master."

TORA
(c) In full *tora hartebeest*, a light brown hartebeest, *Alcelaphus buselaphus tora*, found in parts of north-eastern Africa. From the Amharic. "The male of the tora has a large, round, convex tuft of darker hair in front of each of its eyes."

WITTITE
(b) A mineral containing lead, bismuth, selenium, and sulphur and occurring as grey monoclinic crystals, an eponym of *Th. Witt*, a Swedish mining engineer of the 1920s. "Wittite resembles molybdenite in appearance."

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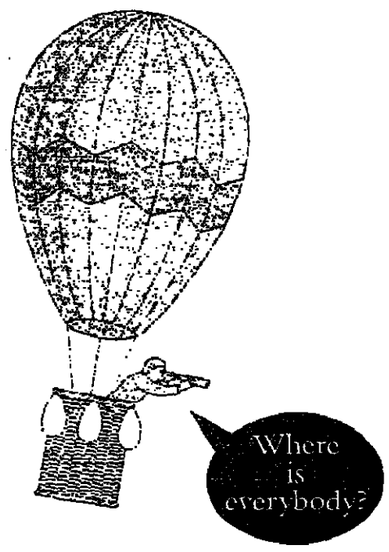
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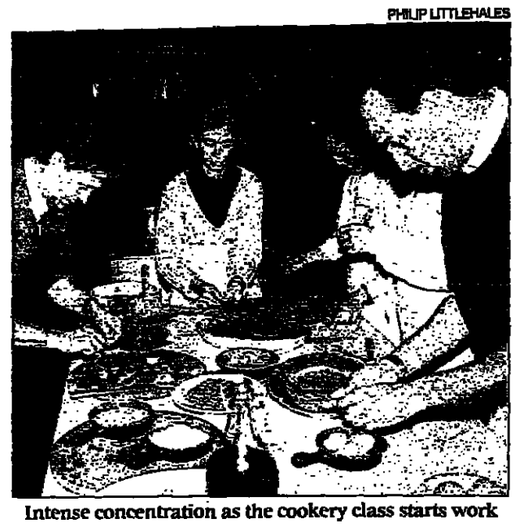
ITALY: **Julia Llewellyn Smith** takes a cookery course — and the chef takes flak

Recipe for kitchen rebellion

PHILIP LITTLEHALES



Rocco, the pizza-maker, sets to work with the ham and the dreaded aubergines



Intense concentration as the cookery class starts work



The swimming pool and gardens at La Cacciata estate

It was the fifth and final day of a week's cooking in the Umbrian hills and Steve, *the sous chef*, was teaching us how to make that Italian favourite *ravioli di zucca*, or pumpkin ravioli. The keener members of the class chopped up a pumpkin, while the rest of us gossiped at the back. The slices baked in the oven, while the swots rolled out transluscent layers of pasta and the rest of us sneaked off to the bar. The baked pumpkin was scooped into a food processor and mangled up, at which point Steve announced he was going to add almondy biscuit crumbs.

The class shuddered. "You can't do that," we cried. "It will be disgusting." Steve assured us he could, and it would taste divine. It was an ancient Italian recipe. He urged us to taste the mix: it was as cloying as a Whitney Houston ballad, and we mutinously told him so. He threw in some more parmesan and asked us to try again. It was still revolting, but we didn't dare rebel twice.

When the little parcels were served up at dinner, we buried them in more parmesan and gulped them down whole, but nothing could make them taste good. Steve looked as if he had booked the last passage on the *Titanic*.

Poor Steve: it was the only really nasty dish we were served in a whole week of delicious food and bountiful wine. Apart, that is, from the aubergines.

"Aubergines," said Alastair Little, of the eponymous restaurant in London and our teacher for the week, "do not need to be cooked in oil. Oh, no. They soak up too much." Little's method was to stick the aubergines straight on to a hot plate and let them sizzle *au nature*. They tasted like mouldy tree bark. By the fourth day I would have rather fallen on my serrated knife than eat another eggplant. In fact, I haven't touched one (oiled or otherwise) to this day.

Everything else we ate was spectacular. Little, the man responsible for bringing much of the new Italian cooking to London, is an excellent teacher, managing to entertain a class whose abilities ranged from complete beginner to professional. He knows that the secret of charm is honesty, and delighted us all by admitting to using packet stock (watered down in double the recommended quantities) and tinned peaches, and reciting other scurrilous anecdotes about the restaurant trade.

Under his tuition we learned how to make the definitive chocolate tart (an almost religious moment), the ultimate mushroom risotto and the perfect *panzanella* (a salad made, unappetisingly, of breadcrumbs, which tastes like a midsummer's day). We learned how to out-Sainsbury Sainsbury's by sun-drying our own tomatoes, baking our own *focaccia* and, on one evening, importing Rocco the local pizza-maker to show us how to bake our own.

We were staying in the most idyllic setting imaginable, on the estate of La Cacciata, the working farm of the Belcapo family, noted for its extra virgin oil, which sits on a hill overlooking the medieval town of Orvieto and its technicolour cathedral.

Lessons were in the vast, fly-spattered farmhouse kitchen: dinner on the terrace and (the basic) bedrooms in a series of surrounding farmhouses reached after a muddy stumble across the fields.

It was usually a hazy stumble, too. All wine, from the Belcapo estate, was included, which, given a convivial group, could mean the week worked out at extremely good value. As it did also when you considered what it would cost to eat for a week in Little's restaurant.

Everyone at La Cacciata emphasises that you are on holiday. "We have breakfast at nine, then we cook, then we have a drink, then we will eat lunch and then we will break and then we will eat dinner." Little said on the first evening, as we sat nibbling *crostini* under an ochre sky.

None of the classes were compulsory, nobody was singled out to peel charred peppers in front of their classmates and no one was mocked for a badly chopped carrot. Anyone who thought that life was too short to stuff a mushroom (or in my case to bake bread) could skive off, no questions asked. And no paying guests had to clear tables or wash up.

Afternoons were free to swim in the pool, with its fantastic view over the hills, and take riding lessons from a laid-back instructor. All was well when the sun shone, less so on rainy days when there was little to do but lie on one's lumpy mattress and wait until it was a decent hour to go to the bar.

Enjoying the week was just as dependent on our group of 16 as on learning that you didn't need to put salt in the broccoli water. Friends had teased me before I went that I would be marooned among rich housewives and yuppie couples longing to make their own *polenta*. Both types were present along with a strong contingent of single men and several others who escaped definition. Many had encountered each other on previous courses. By the end of the second day we were getting on famously, by the end of the week we were heartened at the news of a class romance.

We all swore we'd keep in touch and that we'd throw huge dinner parties on our return. I don't know about the others, but I have done neither. You are given a comprehensive print-out of all recipes covered but, after a week's cooking, I wanted to eat out for the rest of my life, and it was Christmas before I impressed myself by chopping an onion in true *cordon-bleu* style, and only now can I contemplate trying out *Maiale al Latte* (pork basted in milk and utterly divine) in my very un-Umbrian kitchen.

An absolute beginner would learn a lot on this course, an expert would have tremendous fun. But beware of the aubergines and don't touch the pumpkin ravioli.

● *The author was a guest of La Cacciata. One week's full board at La Cacciata costs £800, excluding flights. Courses run from Saturday to Saturday from mid-May to the end of July and start again in September, continuing to mid-October. From May 13 to June 3, the guest chef will be Sophie Baimbridge; from June 3-24, Anthony Worrall-Thompson. Alastair Little will be the main chef from June 23 onwards. For booking forms, contact Sarah Robson, 15 Dawson Place, London W2 4TH (0171-243 8042).*

HOLIDAYS FOR COOKS WITH A TASTE FOR LEARNING

☐ France is the leading country for cookery-course holidays, many of them based on the cider, Calvados, cream and cheeses of Normandy.

☐ Inntravel (01653 628811) offers three-night breaks, staying in auberges and, on two afternoons, trying your hand at some Norman delights under the supervision of the chef. For example, at the 300-year-old Auberge du Val au Cesne, 37 miles from Dieppe, guests learn the secrets of *rillettes de saumon* and *tarte tatin*. The self-drive, three-night break costs £299, including B&B and the cross-Channel fares. Or, you can go behind the scenes on a weekend at the Hotel de France et des Fuschias in the fishing port of St Vaast, 19 miles from Cherbourg, for more Norman recipes, Calvados-tasting sessions and visits to oyster farms. This costs £207.

☐ Brigitte Tilleray, a Normandy-born cook and author of *The Frenchwoman's Kitchen*, runs cookery breaks with La France des Villages (01449 737678). These include a minimum of nine hours' cookery demonstrations by an English-speaking chef, with guests trying out their own skills. Three excursions, all meals and wines, four nights' stay in a 17th-century farmhouse in St Mere l'Eglise, (30 minutes from Cherbourg), and the ferry crossing are included in the cost of £397.

☐ Lyons is the centre for a three-night package by Air France Holidays (0181-742 3377). Guests stay at the Château de Pizay, a 17th-century castle, lunch at La Tour Rose restaurants and join in a cookery class. The cost of £815 includes green fees at nearby golf courses, wine tastings, dinner at Chez Paul Bocuse restaurant (3-star Michelin), flights and car hire.

☐ In Italy, Arblaster & Clarke (01730 893344), offers a week's tailor-made course in Verona at La Foresteria — Dante's home in exile, and still home to his descendant Count Serego Alighieri. No pizza-and-pasta instruction here: risotto and specialist local dishes are high on the list. Each demonstration costs £65 to £70, which includes lunch. Budding chefs stay in apartments, and pay £391 with ferry crossings. £672 on scheduled flights.

☐ Luxurious cooking holidays are run by the Hotel Cipriani, Venice. These are held mainly in the autumn, with classes by well-known cooks. Tours include visits to the Rialto market and tastings of olive oil and cheeses. These holidays, from five days to a week, cost from £1,726 to £2,106 per person, excluding travel. Details from Orient Express (0181-568 8366).

☐ For something completely different, you can learn about Thai cooking on a weekend course at the Boathouse Hotel in Phuket. You pay £89 for tuition, a seafood meal, two lunches, a herbal sauna and a traditional Thai massage. This is in addition to the cost of the holiday — £716 to £806 for five night's B&B. From Magic of the Orient (01293 537700).

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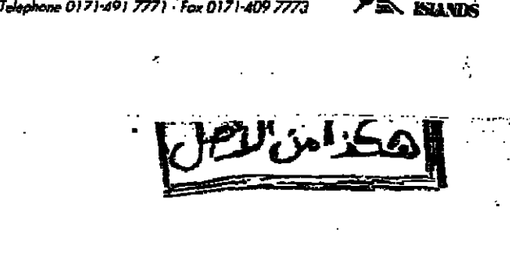


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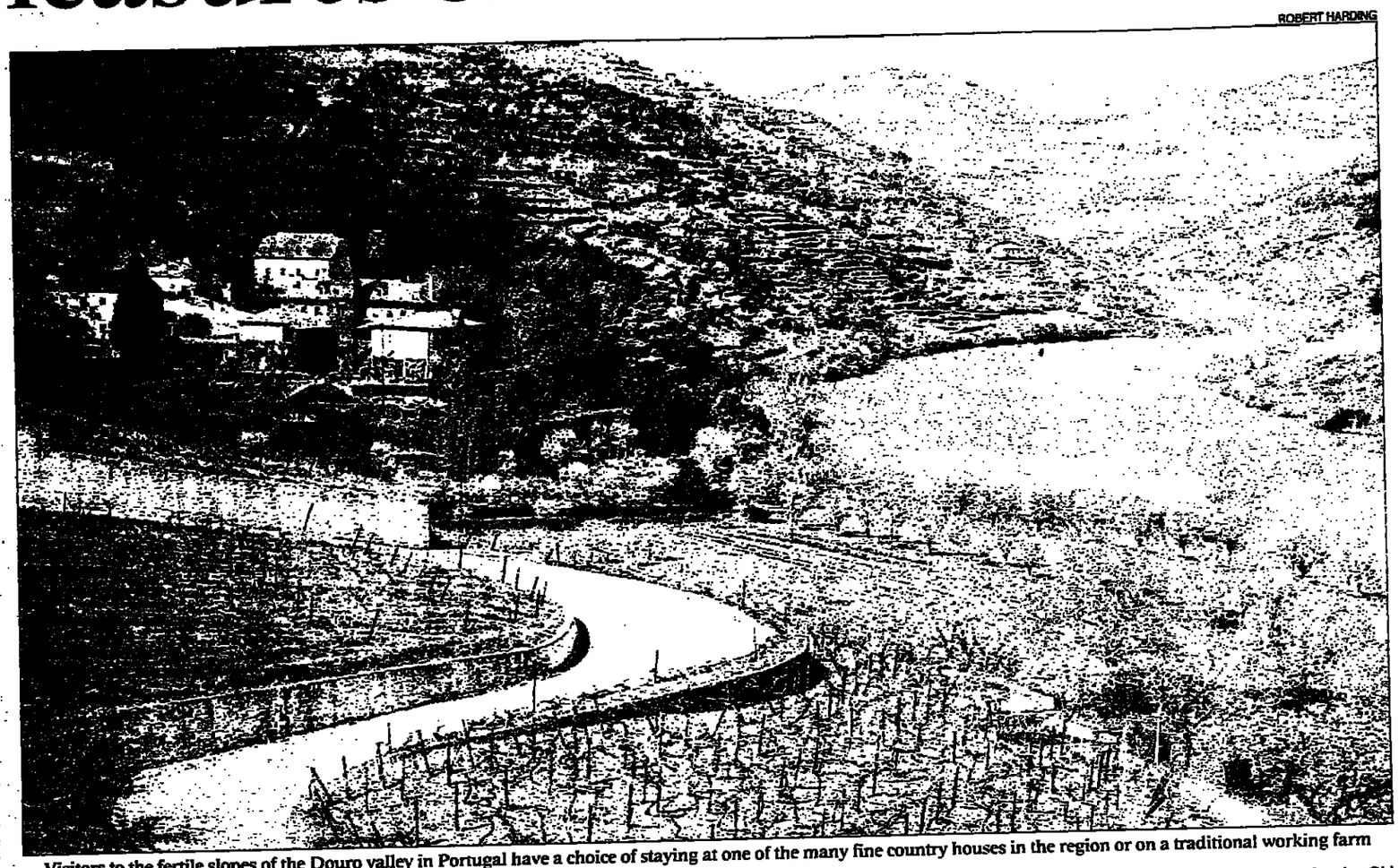
PARIS

GE

RURAL HOLIDAYS: **Jill Crawshaw** discovers welcoming cottages and farmhouses on the continent

Simple pleasures off the beaten track

ROBERT HARDING



Visitors to the fertile slopes of the Douro valley in Portugal have a choice of staying at one of the many fine country houses in the region or on a traditional working farm

■ RURAL holidays abroad, run by local agrotourism schemes or by specialist British tour operators, are a good way to encourage closer contact with local people, and spread the benefits that tourism can bring. Here is a range of suggestions.

SICILIAN FARMS

THE 200-year-old Azienda Mose farm shares the countryside around Agrigento, in southwest Sicily, with six Greek temples, including the ruins of the huge Temple of Jupiter (480 BC), and the preserved Concordia Temple.

Life on the farm is relaxed: breakfast in the kitchen, with fresh ricotta cheese and home-made jams, and dinner on the terrace under the trees, with wine and produce from the estate. Guests use the water reservoir as a swimming pool.

Sunvil Travel says there is increasing enthusiasm for holidays on Sicilian farms from holidaymakers fleeing the impersonal, often hideous hotels of the south coast.

Most of the farms are in the richly historical region around Agrigento, so you learn about its culture, and Sicilian cooking, from the family with whom you eat.

A week's half-board, with flights, costs £543 to £561.

Sunvil also offers a number of holiday cottages in Crete, renovated as part of a conservation scheme, where visitors can become part of local life.

The Spilia cottages are in the small village of the same name, near Khania in the western part of the island. The village has a square, church, coffee shop, two grocery stores and not much else. A week's self-catering costs £432 to £459, with flights and car.

● *Sunvil Travel, 7 Upper Square, Isleworth, London TW7 7BJ (0181-568 4499).*

MAGYAR MAGIC

MOST of the *puszta*, the great plains of Hungary southeast of the capital, Budapest, are largely unexplored territory to outsiders. But for those adventurous enough to tackle its Finno-Ugric language (many speak German, otherwise it's sign language), there are some excellent working farms and inns *(csardas)* at low prices, some of them the homes of the famous whip-cracking cowboys, the *csikos*, that tend the plain's herds of wild horses.

At a typical farmhouse near Kecskemét, a double room costs about £27 a night. There is certain to be an ample supply of the "wine of the region", the fiery *barack pdlinka*, apricot brandy.

At some of the village farms, the owners will come in and cook local soups and stews and other specialities, for about £4 a night.

There is more to the *puszta* than horses, horsemen and goulash; it is a venue on the migratory route of millions of birds, attracting birdwatchers from all over the world.

● *For information on bookings, other farmhouse holidays and travel, contact the Hungarian Tourist Board, PO Box 4336, London SW18 4XE (0181-871 4009).*

SPANISH SOJOURN

THERE'S a cobbler next door to the holiday cottages, an old olive press and museum beyond that, and a tiny, low-beamed inn further on which serves "grandmother's soup". And there is jagged sierra behind the whitewashed cottages with studded doors and geranium-decked balconies.

The cottages are in Benalauria, southwest Spain, one of the dazzling little *pueblos blancos*, the white towns of Andalucia — part of the local agrotourism scheme to preserve old buildings and give visitors a glimpse of rural life in the province.

There's lots of riding in the area, paragliding nearby, and walking along old smugglers' routes and mountain paths.

Similar cottages and farmhouses *(cortijos)* are available in other *pueblos blancos* — in Algatocin, for example, or dramatic little Gaucin. The average cost is 1,550 pesetas (about £12) per person per night, often with a minimum stay of six nights.

● *Details from Rural Andalus, 0034 5 227 62 29.*

SCANDANAVIAN STYLE

FOR families who like the outdoor life — backpacking in the forest, tracking elk or beaver, canoeing up hidden creeks, or fishing for supper — Scandinavian Seaways offers log cabin and chalet holidays in Sweden. The cabins are modest and rustic, but well-equipped with kitchens and bathrooms, set beneath trees or beside one of the 100,000 or so lakes, with boats often included in the cottage hire.

The cottages are dotted all over the country, from the northern "folklore" province of Värmland to the southerly Vastergotland.

Package holidays that include the price of the ferry for car and passengers from Harwich or Newcastle to Gothenburg (with two nights on the ship in a four-berth cabin) cost £255 to £324 for each of two people travelling, £180 to £233 for each of four.

Log cabins in Norway, farmhouse holidays in Denmark and, for the first time holiday villages in Finland, are also on offer.

● *Scandinavian Seaways, Harwich 01255 241234; Newcastle 0191-293 6262.*

TASTE OF MOSELLE

YOU can spend a working holiday with a wine grower in the Moselle Valley, Germany, joining in the harvest, learning about and sampling the Ausleses, and taking a river cruise from wine village to wine village. Moswin's Tours offers a week's half-board at £398, including flights at harvest time, or £376, if you go independently between May and September.

Other self-catering farm holidays from Moswin could be ideal for pony-mad children: a small pony is allocated free for each apartment on the Ferienhof Valz farm at Niederstetten in Bavaria's Tauber Valley, where a week's self-drive holiday for four, including the ferry, costs £772.

● *Moswin Tours, 21 Church Street, Oadby, Leicester (0116-271 9922).*

PORTUGUESE PANACHE

COUNTRY *quintas*, the fine manor houses furnished with antiques and family heirlooms, and *casas*, the distinguished country houses and farms, open their great studded doors to offer a traditional Portuguese welcome to visitors prepared to stray off the beaten track in the Douro valley, the Minho, and the hidden villages of the Costa Verde and the Montanhas.

Much of Portugal's history can be traced in the cresis, carvings and the libraries of these manor houses, which have been in the same families for generations. The Solar das Arcas, a 17th-century house, with pool and gardens, near the Peneda-Gerês National Park, belongs to the Pessanha family, whose ancestors taught navigation to many of the country's great sailors.

Further south, the Quinta de São Lourenço in the Bairrada region, was the home of the first Viscount Seabra, who prepared Portugal's civil code, in force between 1867 and 1966.

Destination Portugal offers a choice of 89 houses — most guests like to combine two or three during a holiday — for about £25 each a night, B&B. Flights to Oporto cost £135 to £213 return, and car hire from £99 to £114 a week.

● *Destination Portugal, 37 Corn Street, Witney, Oxfordshire (01993 773269).*

SLOVENIA STAY

SLOVENIA, "a young state with an old culture", borders Italy, Austria, Hungary, Croatia and the Adriatic. Wilma Topolsek, whose farmhouse, near Zrece, is in walking, fishing and riding country, won awards last year for accommodation and food (she makes her own bread, cheeses and honey, and wine).

At Medljan farm, near Portoroz, guests can take rides on the seven Lippizaner horses, or on the mountain bikes, which are provided.

The farms cost £275 to £290 B&B, £290 to £320 half-board, for one week including flights.

● *Slovenija Pursuits, 14 Hay Street, Steeple Morden, Royston, Hertfordshire (01763 852646).*

AND FINALLY...

COTTAGES in Cathars and country manors in the Midi, France, Ida's farmhouse in the Alps, and harbour houses in Norway's Hardangerfjord are among Inntravel's self-catering portfolio. At Corbières, guides take you on botanical walks, to producers of wine, cheese and honey, or to visit the ruins of the 12th-century Cathar castles. The cottages cost £259 to £433 a week.

At Ida's farmhouse in Sörenberg, Switzerland, guests can help out on the farm (£214 to £271).

Fishermen will regale visitors with tall tales in Old Skudeneshavn, the old centre of Norway's herring trade, where a white clapboard harbour house at the water's edge costs £376 to £471 a week.

All these prices are for a party of two, and include ferry fares for car and passengers.

● *Inntravel, Hovingham, York (01653 628811)*

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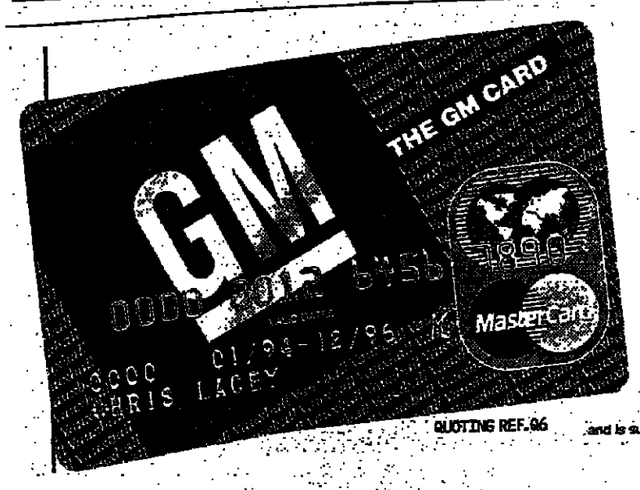
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SWINDON: An urban farm provides a breath of fresh air for city-dwellers

Just doing what comes naturally

TED BATH



Children enjoy feeding the chickens and peacocks during their working weekend at Lower Shaw farm in Swindon

Swindon is hardly a name to conjure up images of bucolic delight. As the taxi swung through an industrial estate, mini-roundabout by mini-roundabout, the nearest I got to a view of wide open spaces was the rolling roof of a Renault factory where, the driver informed me, a James Bond film had once been shot.

Discovering Lower Shaw Farm is like discovering a new world at the back of a wardrobe. One minute I was travelling through a landscape of identikit houses and clipped front lawns, the next the taxi had veered off down an unmade track and I was scrambling out into a muddy yard.

I had arrived, it seemed, just in time for the introductory meeting. Assembled round a wood fire, the weekend guests were initiated into such arcane mysteries as which compost bin to use when, and (should we wish to ignore more conventional plumbing arrangements) how to avail ourselves of the eco-loo. Then introductions all round, some in the shakily self-conscious voices of first-time visitors; others were obviously long familiar with the set-up.

A community of seven adults and seven children is permanently resident in the 18th-century farmhouse at Lower Shaw. Throughout the spring and summer they offer weekend courses to visitors. I, and 20 enthusiasts, had come for the WWOOF weekend (Working Weekends On Organic Farms), one of four held annually. We were to stay free of charge in return for general maintenance work and seasonal jobs around the farm.

On the weekends when courses such as pottery or circus skills are offered, Lower Shaw accomodates up to 60 guests. They sleep in caravans, tents, and even yurts, the portable folding homes of the central Asian nomads. If I came back in April, I was told, I would be taught how to build one myself. But for now I was content with rather less exotic accommodation — a spartan but comfortable room in a converted calfshed. Next door, in bunks, were four sixth-formers from Oxford who sat up late hotly debating how many teats the goats they were to milk the next morning would have.

Though a cockerel crowed from the crack of dawn onwards, reveille is at about 8am. The guests, I discovered over breakfast, seemed determined to eat their body weight in home-made bread. The food is vegetarian — hearty and wholesome. It needs to be. Lower Shaw isn't for those who think the great outdoors is what you pass through on the way from apartment to taxicab. Visitors came equipped with sturdy clothes, wellingtons, and waterproofs.

Wood was chopped, compost dug, caravans painted, and a gravel path laid. Inside, in the stone-flagged kitchen, vats of stew bubbled on the range. I was set to work moving a pile of logs, helped by Christiane, a Londoner who comes down to the farm from time to time to give her three-year-old daughter a breath of fresh air.

"Lower Shaw has been built like the pyramids — by team effort," said Matt Holland, a resident at the farm for 14 years, "except here we have good food and Sixties songs instead of whips." Matt used to come to Lower Shaw as a boy to make hay. Now he is a part-time lecturer in English literature and teaches on the farm's writing weekend. "The motto of Lower Shaw is 'Life is for learning'," he said. "Swindon is the largest town in Britain without a higher education centre. People often say that Lower Shaw stands in instead. But the most important thing is that people from all walks of life can connect with each other."

He was right. By lunchtime all shyness had vanished as we basked in the sun, throwing scraps to greedy peacocks. And, by Saturday evening, gathering round the fire to sing and play games, or have a jamming session, all barriers were broken down.

Lower Shaw, with its rainbow-coloured murals and painted pots of pansies, its windmills and solar panels for energy, its bin-liner frog ponds and tiny patch of land optimistically called the permaculture forest, offers the city dweller a taste of something alternative.

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

Fact file

☐ For a brochure, write to: Lower Shaw Farm, Old Shaw Lane, Shaw, Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 9PJ (01793 771030).

☐ Courses at Lower Shaw Farm include: April 14-17: Easter Weekend, £72; April 28-30: Writing Weekend, £72; April 28-30: Building a Yurt, £72; May 5-8: Circus Skills, £97 (child £70); May 19-21: Zen and the Art of Haiku, £72; May 26-28: The Mystery of Avebury, £72; May 26-28: Cycling Weekend, £66; June 9-11: Pottery, £85; June 30-July 2: *The Blues Experience*, £72; August 7-13: Activities Weekend, £125 (less for child); August 21-27: Summer Stretch, £150.

Where to take the children at Easter

LONDON

Science on the menu: Easter holiday activities.
Science Museum, Exhibition Road, SW7 (0171-938 8000). Ring for details. Adults £4.50, children £2.40. (S)

Workshops and activities: at the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood.
Cambridge Heath Road, E2 (0181-980 3204). Ring for details. (S)

BEDFORSHIRE

National spring-clean week: clean up a local common.
Five Springs car park, Marsh Farm, Luton. Tuesday, April 4 at 10am. Also 2pm on Bradgers Hill (01582 481851). Children should be accompanied. Free. (S) morning event only).

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Cricket course: for eight-year-olds upwards.
Stowe School, Stowe. Contact Sportsclass (01625 618700). April 9-13, from 9.30am-5.15pm. £16 per day; five-day course, £80 non-residential, £150 residential. Limited disabled facilities.

CUMBRIA

The Elements: talks, activities and exhibitions.
Brockhole Lake District National Park Visitor Centre, Windermere (015394 46601). From April 13-19. Prices vary. (S)

GREATER MANCHESTER

Easter activities: including bonnet-making and circus skills.
Salford Museum & Art Gallery, Peel Park, The Crescent, Salford (0161-736 2649). April 9-23. Times vary. Free. (S)

HAMPSHIRE

Children's Easter competition: identify medals and win an egg.
The Gurkha Museum, Peninsular Barracks, Romsey Road, Winchester (01962 842832). April 11-22 (except Sundays and Mondays) from 10am. Free. (S)

KENT

Holiday fun trail: quiz for children with prizes.
White Cliffs Experience, Market Square, Dover (01304-210101). April 8-23, from 10am. Adults £4.99, children £3.50 (includes admission to museum). (S)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Medieval village: learn about the Holy Grail and the Sheriff of Nottingham.
The World of Robin Hood, Haughton (01623 860210). Open daily from 10.30am-5pm. Adults £3.95, children £2.95.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Lambing time: bottle-fed lambs and Easter chicks.
Hall Hill Farm, Lanchester, Durham (01388 730300). Open every Sunday in April, including Easter Sunday, 11am-5pm. Adults £2.75, children £1.75. (S)

OXFORDSHIRE

Storytelling workshop: an opportunity for five to seven-year-olds to create their own tale.
The Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford (01865 798600). April 11 at 10.30am and 1.30pm. Children £5. (S)

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh puppet/animation festival: shows and workshops.
Various venues. Telephone 0131-220 4349 for information. Performances until April 15. Facilities for the disabled at most events but ring first.

SUSSEX

Animal antic games: learn about animal behaviour.
Drusillas Park, Alfriston, East Sussex (01323 870656). April 3-23 from 10.30am. Adults £5.20, children £4.50. (S)

Easter crafts and egg hunt: make bonnets and rabbit ears.
Arundel Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre, Mill Road, Arundel (01903 883355). April 10-21 from 10am. Adults £3.95, children £2. (S)

WALES

The ice palace: youth performance about a girl who vanishes into a frozen waterfall. For five years upwards.
Sherman Theatre, Senghennydd Road, Cardiff (01222 230451). April 11-13, 8pm. Adults £5.50, children £3.50. (S)

JANE BIDDER

FROM BERLIN TO BOHEMIA

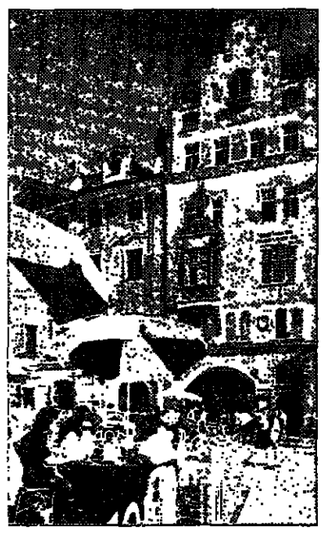
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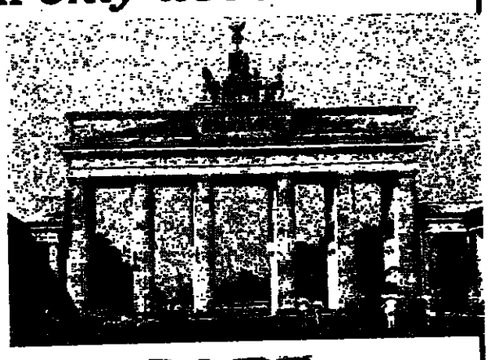
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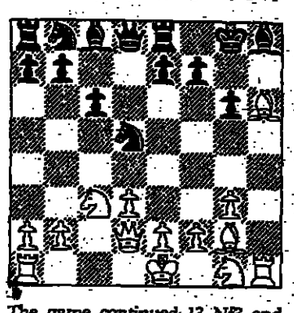
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by Raymond Keene

Enormous excitement was generated when the 11-year-old Indian player Ganguly defeated the Russian Grandmaster Serper in a tournament in Calcutta earlier this year. When I originally published it, I described the game as a flawless performance by the prodigy, but a number of readers have written in to suggest that the grandmaster missed a win. Here are the opening moves:

White: Serper; Black: Ganguly
Goodricke Open, 1995
English Opening

1	c4	Nf6	2	Nc3	d5		
3	cxd5	Nxd5	4	g3	g6		
5	Bg2	Nb6	6	d3	Bg7		
7	Be3	0-0	8	Qd2	Re8		
9	Bh6	Bh8	10	h4	c6		
11	h5	Nd5	12	hxg6	hxg6		



The game continued 13 Nf3 and Black won in 49 moves. Tony Peterson of Essex, among many others, suggests instead the clever move 13 Bf8 with the following variations:

i) 13 . . . Kxf8 14 Rxh8+ Kg7 15 Qh6+ Kf6 16 Ne4+ winning.

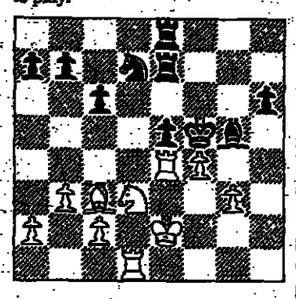
ii) 13 . . . Rxf8 14 Qh6 forcing mate.

iii) 13 . . . Nxc3 14 Rxh8+ and 15 Qh6+ mating.

iv) 13 . . . Bxc3 14 bxc3 f5 15 Qh6 Kf7 16 Qg7+ with a very strong attack for White.

This is a good try, but the simple 13 . . . Bf6 is Black's best reply. Black now threatens to capture the bishop on f8, and if White continues aggressively with 14 Ne4, then 14 . . . Kxf8 15 Nxf6 exf6 and the black king has an escape square on e7. After 13 . . . Bf6, White's best move may be to simply retreat the bishop to h6, when of course he has gained nothing. A final try is 13 Bf8 Bf6 14 Qh6, but then 14 . . . Nxc3 15 bxc3 Nd7 (15 . . . Bxe3+ may also be playable) — which traps the bishop on f8 and White has no good continuation.

On March 2, I published the following position from the game Smyslov - Oll, Rostov 1993. White would like to capture the black bishop on g5, but his own rook on e4 is attacked. However, he noticed that if the black king were to capture the rook, it would be dangerously short of squares, and this gave him the clue for a winning combination. Can you see it? White to play.



Solution: 1 g4+! Kxe4 (if Black does not play this, he simply loses his bishop) 2 Nf2+ Kxf4 3 Rg1! and now 4 Nh3 checkmate is unavoidable.

David Parsons of Surrey, Michael Legge of Hampshire and Pat Snow of London (among others) all point out that, after the first three moves of the solution, 4 Nh3 will not be mate, as the black king has the e4-square at its disposal. However, White is actually threatening 4 Bd2 mate, and the only defence is the reply 3 . . . e4 after which, 4 Nh3 really is mate.

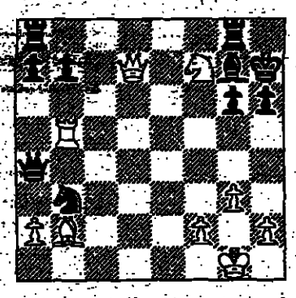
In next week's column I shall address the resignation puzzle I set in the game between Rogers and Enqvist from Gausdal, and announce the winner who gave the best answer to the win missed by Khalifamn in his game against Nigel Short from Linares.

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Parr - Wheatcroft, London 1938. In this position White finished the game with a beautiful geometric combination. What was the decisive first move?

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's winners: L Carter, Worthing; G Richards, London; T.J. Mills, Telford.



Last week's solution: 1 . . . Rh1+.

PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon on the right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

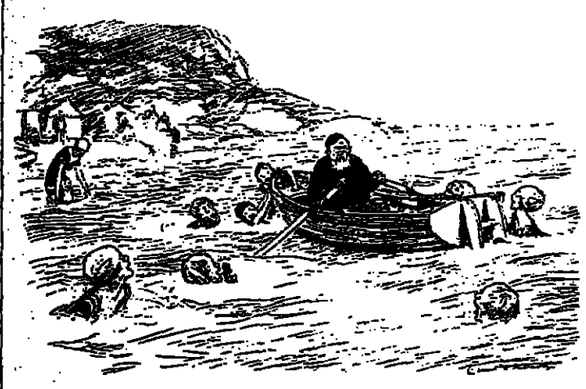
The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Caption suggestions, on a postcard please, should be addressed to: Cartoon Caption 51, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, April 5.



"YOU MUST CUT IT A BIT SMALLER THAN THAT."
"YER CAN'T EXPECK ME TO CUT IT SMALLER 'N THAT FOR 'ERRIPENCE A HOUR, GUV'NOR."



A tense moment in the new *Baywatch*

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by David W. Barfoot of Shenfield, Essex

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SPIELRAUM
a. A sports room
b. A rhetorical pause
c. A range of possibilities

TAPSELL
a. A churchyard gate
b. A cart selling tapped water
c. Gay abandon

TORA
a. A Greek couch
b. A Buddhist idol
c. A hartebeest

WITTITE
a. An 18th-century clubman
b. Grey crystals
c. A Saxon law officer

Answers on page 17

COMPUTER GAMES

MRS G. CONSTANT of Chivelstone, Devon is seeking an antidote to games of "noise and violence" and asks for details of a PC version of *Scrabble*. This, she says, "would at least be good for the children's spelling".

The original J. W. Spear & Son game is produced for the home computer in Britain by US Gold. Its version allows up to four human or computer-controlled players. It has 12 skill levels to suit all ages and intellects and a word-base of more than 134,000 entries. The game also hones *Scrabble* skills with a teaching feature: after taking your go, the computer will show other moves you could have made with your tiles. There is an additional facility so you can print out the final board.

Scrabble by US Gold (0161-625 3366) is available for IBM PCs and compatibles at £30.99 and is slightly cheaper for Commodore Amiga and Acorn Archimedes models.

Mrs Constant's plea is typical of many requests to this column in that she asks where a particular game can be "obtained".

Your first port of call should be your local computer game shop which, if it does not have copies in stock, should be able to order any title in most standard formats. Alternatively, you can try larger branches of W. H. Smith and Boots, which have computer game areas. However, if after exploring these avenues you still have problems tracking down an elusive title, telephone the producer or distributor direct.

While we're on the subject of improving word-power and spelling, a new CD-Rom title will help younger children. Guildsoft's *Chadwick and the Sneaky Egg Thief* is an interactive storybook aimed at reinforcing reading skills. Chadwick is a young dinosaur who, with his friends, sets off on a storybook adventure in search of an egg stolen by the baddie, Sneakasaurus. The story unfolds over 20 interactive pages, each featuring thousands of "clickable" experiences, such as coughing chimneys and spouting volcanoes.

All the pages can also be coloured with a choice of more than 300 colours, patterns and stamps. *Chadwick and the Sneaky Egg Thief* costs £29.95 from Guildsoft (01752 894833).

Finally, a request to all Mac-users for help in recommending suitable games to a perplexed Pershore pensioner. Like Mrs Constant, he isn't fond of games of an over-boisterous nature.

"At 75, I find 'zap 'em' games do not appeal," he says. "The Lemmings series has provided me with considerable mental exercise and a great deal of enjoyment — and I am very proud of having reached the end. But I have just changed from a PC to a Mac and have found this limits my choice of programmes. I would appreciate any advice on comparable games."

Can you help? We will forward all your suggestions.

"Snail mail" should be addressed to Computer Games, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You can also fax the column on 0171-729 6791, but please note that it is not possible to forward faxes intended for this page's caption competition.

TIM WAPSHOTT

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE annual university match between Oxford and Cambridge took place last month. Oxford won, to narrow the gap in the series to 28-25, with one match tied.

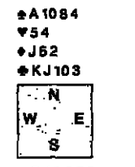
The standard of play at university level is amazingly variable. Several university players have become top-class: the majority of the current British Open and Women's teams are university graduates.

On the other hand, many university players don't have the true obsessive zeal required to play well. I asked one particularly poor performer I saw in the Oxford-Cambridge match a few years ago how he spent his time. He gave me a boring list of activities, along the lines of ping-pong on Mondays, drama club on Tuesdays, the Liberal Club on Wednesdays, squash on Thursdays, and so on, throwing in that he also did 35 hours' academic work.

He told me proudly that he went to the bridge club on Sunday afternoons. Not exactly my idea of a misspent youth, and hardly surprising that he played so indifferently.

In this year's match, Oxford had two established players in Abbey Walker, who played in junior international bridge at the age of 16, and Phil Souter, part of the British Juniors (under 25) team which won the European Championship last year. He will be in the British team to play in the World Junior Championship in Bali later this year.

Souter had an interesting play problem on this hand.

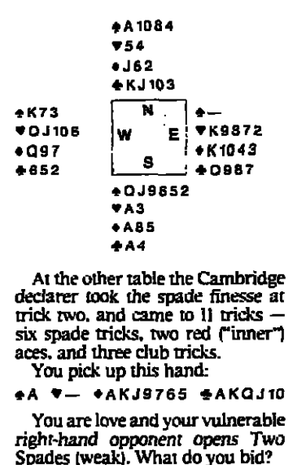


Contract: Four Spades Lead: the queen of hearts

What is the best way to set about this hand after winning the ace of hearts?

One possibility is to take the spade finesse. If this loses, the defence will take a heart and switch to diamonds. Now you draw trumps, and best play is ace and king of clubs, with the idea of taking a ruffing finesse — this is slightly better odds than taking an immediate finesse, as it gains against queen doubleton of clubs with East.

The line taken by Souter looks better. After winning the ace of hearts he played the ace of clubs and finessed the jack. This lost to the queen, and after taking a heart the defence switched to diamonds. Souter now played a spade to the ace, and played clubs. In this way he would make (a) if the king of spades was singleton, and (b) if spades were 2-1 with the player with the king of spades holding at least three clubs. Unfortunately for him, although West had three clubs, she also had three spades and so the contract went down. This was the full deal:



At the other table the Cambridge declarer took the spade finesse at trick two, and came to 11 tricks — six spade tricks, two red ("inner") aces, and three club tricks.

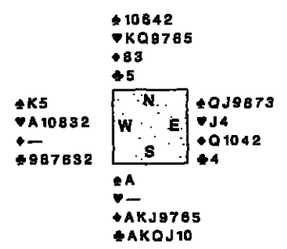
You pick up this hand:

♠A ♥— ♦AKJ9765 ♣AKQJ10

You are love and your vulnerable right-hand opponent opens Two Spades (weak). What do you bid?

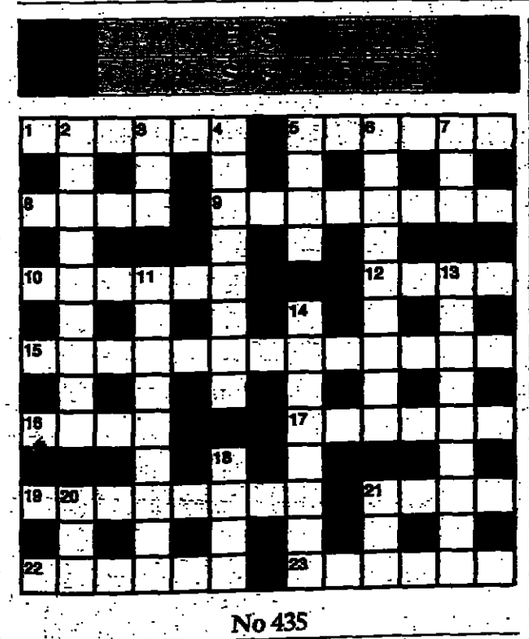
The Cambridge player doubled and, when her partner bid Four Hearts, wisely discouraged further moves in that direction by bidding Six Diamonds, which was passed out. When I raised my eyebrows at the double, the Cambridge captain assured me that if at this vulnerability the doubler's partner had passed, there would have been an adequate penalty to compensate for any slam. Well maybe, but I wouldn't like to hear it go All Pass.

In the same auction, the Oxford player, impressed by his 150 honours, bid Seven Clubs over Two Spades. His left hand opponent doubled, and all passed. This was the full deal:



Six Diamonds unluckily went one off, 50 to Oxford. Seven Clubs Doubled went six off, for 1,400 to Cambridge. Some criticised West for doubling Seven Clubs, on the basis that South might have switched to Seven Diamonds. However, "in life" as Zia says, that doesn't happen — Double looks right to me.

The best bid for South over East's Two Spades is probably 4 NT. This is clearly "unusual", that is showing both minors. In this case North would bid Five Diamonds, and South can then raise to Six or Seven according to his spirit of optimism.



No 435

ACROSS
1 Subdivide, esp. spoils (5,2)
5 Puccini's consumptive heroine (4)
9 First public appearance (5)
10 Non-believer (7)
11 Show independence (2,4,3,3)
12 Young and masculine (6)
13 Basic food item (6)
16 Offhand, impolite (12)
19 From non-scholar (7)
20 Film award; — Wilde (5)
21 Take notice; boy's name (4)
22 Rank below marquessate (7)

DOWN
1 Formulation of rules (4)
2 Toughly flexible, elastic (7)
3 Be forced to retract (3,4,5)
4 Laud (6)
6 Special form of expression (5)
7 With high, concentrated emotion (7)
8 Firmly asked to leave (5,3,4)
12 Socially improper behaviour (3,4)
14 Jumped (on prey) (7)
15 Shrink in fear, embarrassment (6)
17 Wonderful (5)
18 Be full; part of hat (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 434

ACROSS: 1 Chisel 5 Become 8 Stud 9 Temerity 10 Meander 11 Snuff 13 Trojan horse 16 Dacha 18 Plastic 21 Apollo 11 22 Mien 23 Snooze 24 Health

DOWN: 2 Hot seat 3 Sedan 4 Lutheran 5 Bump 6 Coroner 7 Motif 12 Childish 14 Othello 15 Exigent 17 Aspen 19 Samba 20 Lobe

CROSSWORD BOOKS: The Times Concise Crosswords: (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each), Books 3,4,5,6,7 £4.50 each. NEW The Times Two Crossword, Book 2 £5.99. The Times Jumbo Crosswords (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each. Concise Book £5.99). The Times Crosswords (Books 1 to 13 £4.99 each), Books 14 to 19 £4.50 each. The Sunday Times Crosswords — (Book 1 £4.99). Books 10,11,12 & 13 £4.50 each. The Sunday Times Concise Books 1,2,3 £4.50 each NEW Book 4 £3.99. Except the items in brackets, software available for all titles for IBM PCs and Acorn Archimedes computers — Price £14.95 each — also The Times Computer Crosswords Vols 1 to 6, The Sunday Times Vols 1 to 6 and The Times Jubilee Edition, The Sunday Times Mephisto Crosswords.
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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

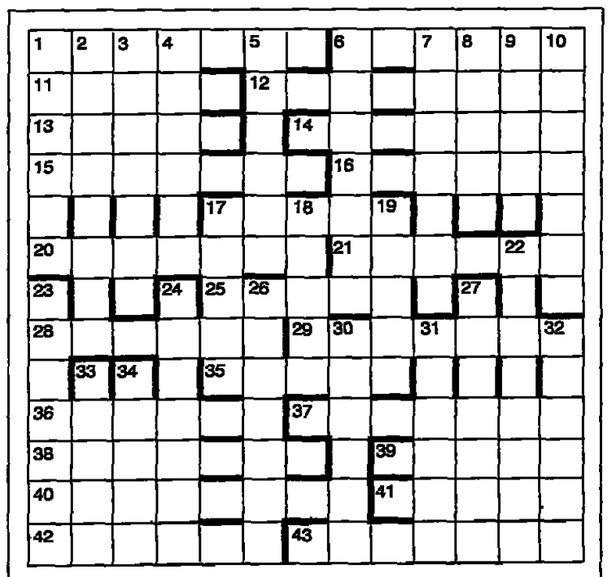
No. 3299: Station by Dimitry

Some checked letters in the grid are not clued in subsidiary indications although the full word defined is entered in all cases. No light contains more than one such letter. There are 13 such letters in the grid which, when read in the correct order, spell something which solvers should satisfy themselves describes all the clues affected. This should be written beneath the grid.

ACROSS
1. Proper amounts of time in bed (7)
6. Hint of colour in a creek bird (6)
11. Cape Town's holding no secret (5)
12. Sudden flow around early Rand? (8)
13. Tip of sword put on before giving long-term injury (5)
14. Crowd split about corrupt form of execution (7)
15. Mixed fabric put on once in borders (7)
16. Matter in debate at meeting - no nonsense gets backing (6)
17. Sharpened tool with diamonds (5)
20. Item may be put here for safe-keeping before Alice's party (7)
21. One refusing trifling sum (6)
25. First notes almost will stop air from rising (5)
28. Damaged animal's tender hoof tissue (6)
29. Vertical rising of musket every day at first went rapidly (7)
35. Rake mortar for replacement, or mark out to deal with (5)
36. A unit with dimension that's agreed (6)
37. Logical reasoning, for instance round failure to meet coming back (7)
38. Division of course leads to it with male children's entitlement (7)
39. Brewed beer with tail-end of malt for flat head? (5)
40. Old refuse backing to smoke pipe herb (8)
41. Precise matter sought by dad for colouring cake (5)
42. Twenty-four hour calm without a bit of din (6)
43. Aim unfulfilled thanks to being disturbed (7)

DOWN
1. Spike, losing head among deer places on borders of wood (6)
2. Patter goes wrong, perhaps in G & S — (8)
3. Position on shield (lacking height and depth) for heraldic beast (7)
4. State organ was backward (6)
5. Eating extremely, sending up call for food and drink (6)
6. See me in Ada's tree-lined walk (7)
7. Round... round... round... it's round (7)
8. Sharp thing does this for skin (5)
9. It's done in parades to carry short sword (5)
10. Tip of chin - it's resting in that woman's palms (7)
17. Place visited often in this year by one local (5)
18. Verge on losing good courage (5)
19. Dot goes round English railway station (5)
22. Juncture of companies, nearly, in Egypt arising unexpectedly (8)
23. Fodder plant for a cockney, what might amount to one acre (7)
24. Cried out as horse sped round lodge once (7)
26. Case of rod and line found in river lately (7)
27. European member of parliament or one from Australia trading places (7)
30. Whit, in season, was ravishing (6)
31. Lace great drink with sugar and almonds (6)
32. Exactly two tenors on in this (6)
33. Fix outworn seat (5)
34. Influential person can be disruptive on the ski-slopes (5)

Statistics relating to 1994 crosswords are now available to senders of an SAE (from overseas, stamp exempt) to J.E. Green, 31, Bishopric Court, Horsham, W Sussex, RH12 1TJ.



LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3299

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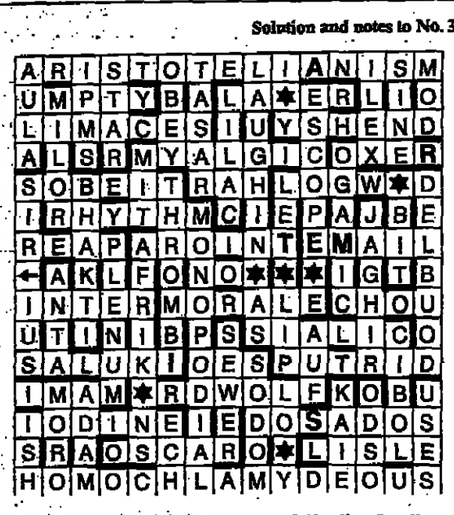
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PRIZES: Book tokens worth £50 will go to the winner. The two runners-up will each win £20 book tokens.

ADDRESS: Readers should cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above, to The Listener Crossword 3299, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, April 13.

Solution and notes to No. 3296: Whodunnit by Monk



Theme

If the answer to a clue contains a double letter, that pair is omitted from the clue's subsidiary indication; *all* clues are treated thus. Unindicated pairs are first DELBUOD (25dn) — ie, "doubled up" — and subsequently replaced by a STAR (3dn). The seven stars so introduced depict the brightest stars in the constellation of Orion; the relative positions of the stars are accurately traced from coordinates taken from *Norton's Star Atlas* (1973). Reading the grid as instructed, the replaced, doubled-up letters spell out DOGSTAR, the synonym for SIRIUS at 19dn. The belt of Orion guides one (see, eg *The Observer's Book of Astronomy*) to Sirius, the true location of which is well to the left of the grid, in the direction of the ARROW.

According to legend, Orion was slain by an arrow whilst swimming at sea: the arrow would, therefore, most likely have hit him from above, and to one side. Accordingly, a *one-square-up* and one-square-across (here, to the right) translation from the starred squares, in the sequence already described, locates ARTEMIS, the huntress, Orion's killer. The murder, though not its detail, is confirmed in *Chambers* (1993).

The winner was Mrs B.E. Collins, of Woodley, Reading, Berkshire. The runners-up were M.J. Ball, of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, and O. Greenwood, of south Ealing, London.

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